

***Around the Table 2017* Impact Report**

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for
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On September 23, 2017, Long Beach residents came together in conversation to talk about issues that impact Long Beach and the quality of life in and around the city. Known as *Around the Table*, this conversation-oriented initiative was an opportunity for friends, families, neighbors, colleagues, and even people who were meeting for the first time, to gather around a shared meal and have a real dialogue about what is important to them with the intention of fueling meaningful change.

Long Beach Community Foundation (LBCF) and We Love Long Beach organized *Around the Table* with support from The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. *Around the Table* is modeled after the *On the Table* initiative, which Knight Foundation brought to 10 cities across the country in 2017: Lexington, KY (March 15); Philadelphia, PA (May 23); Long Beach, CA (September 23); Gary, IN (September 26); Akron, OH (October 3); Detroit, MI (October 4); Miami, FL (October 17); Charlotte, NC (October 25); Columbus, GA (November 7); and San Jose, CA (November 15). This *On the Table* replication project draws from an initiative that originated in Chicago in 2014 as part of The Chicago Community Trust's Centennial celebration. Since its inception and expansion into other cities, *On the Table* has been an occasion for residents of a city or region to convene and discuss local opportunities and challenges while focusing on strategies to make their communities safer, stronger, and more dynamic.

All 10 cities designated their own specific day in 2017 to convene residents in mealtime conversations for discussions on how to make their city a better place to live, work, and play. Following the conversations, participants had the opportunity to take a survey about their experience. This survey featured 27 questions that were standard across all 10 cities, plus up to five additional questions that were unique to each city. Cities then received this report summarizing and analyzing the survey data and a link to a data exploration tool. Community foundations can use insights from the data to inform strategic planning, and local decision-makers, organizations, and residents can use the data to collaborate around improving the quality of life in their cities. A national report incorporating data from all 10 cities and exploring correlations and comparisons in the full data set will be produced in early 2018.

LBCF and We Love Long Beach organized *Around the Table* on the belief that sharing personal stories and listening to others allows a community to learn what matters most to its residents. Arriving at an understanding of what people care about most provides an opportunity for Long Beach residents to collectively imagine how to make Long Beach even better. Through connection and collaboration, Long Beach residents can determine how best to use their talents, strengths, and resources to make a difference in their neighborhoods and city. This process can ultimately help Long Beach become a safer, healthier, and more connected city.

Research Methodology

Knight Foundation invited the University of Illinois at Chicago's (UIC) Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement (IPCE) to serve as the research partner for the *Around the Table* initiative. We set out to gain a deeper understanding of the conversations through results gathered from a survey of *Around the*



Table participants.¹ This report presents the results of the survey and incorporates analyses to provide insight into the summary data. The data itself can be accessed and explored through ipce.shinyapps.io/ATTLB17.

The central questions guiding this research include: Who responded to the survey? How did the conversations go? How did the conversations impact respondents? Additionally, LBCF and We Love Long Beach were interested in learning more specifically about what respondents perceive to be the most important problem facing Long Beach, how they can help address this problem, and with whom they would like to work to address this problem; they also wanted to learn about community interests. The research questions and learning objectives influenced the formatting of the survey, which included a total of 31 questions.

We collected survey data using three methods: a public web link to the Qualtrics survey, an e-mailed unique link to the Qualtrics survey, and distributed print surveys, upon request.² To accommodate non-English speakers, the survey was translated into Spanish, Mon-Khmer, and Tagalog. The collection of survey data began the morning of the *Around the Table* conversations (September 23) when the public web link opened. On the same day and immediately following conversations, print surveys were made available to participants. Following the conversations, 1,339 participants received an e-mail invitation to take the survey.³ Surveys were collected through October 13, 2017.

The respondent population discussed in this report is a self-selected sample of participants who partially or fully completed the survey.⁴ All three survey sources yielded a total of 664 responses (274 through the e-mailed unique link, 274 through the web link, and 116 through the print survey).⁵ All 664 surveys were completed in English. Because this group constitutes a non-random sample of total participants, conclusions cannot be scientifically generalized beyond the respondent group. However, the data and analysis provide useful insight into the opinions, habits, and backgrounds of a number of engaged Long Beach residents.

¹ See Appendix A for the full survey.

² Qualtrics is a web-based service for administering surveys.

³ We had e-mail addresses only for those who provided it through the registration process or during sign-in on the day of the conversation. Registration and signing in were not required for participation, and those who did not register or sign in were able to access the survey through the public web link shared by LBCF and We Love Long Beach or through print surveys. In total, we sent a survey to 1,339 unique and valid e-mail addresses, correcting for duplicates and inaccurate e-mail addresses.

⁴ See Appendix B for a summary report featuring visualizations for responses of all survey questions.

⁵ The estimated survey participation rate is 24%. This is calculated by dividing the total number of survey respondents (664) by the estimated number of *Around the Table* participants (2,800). LBCF and We Love Long Beach provided the estimated number of *Around the Table* participants.



THE CONVERSATIONS

Who Responded?

Given that the perspectives, ideas, and experiences of over 600 respondents inform this report, it is worth exploring what we know about who responded to the survey. This section summarizes data about respondent demographics such as gender, age, educational attainment, race and/or ethnicity, geography, length of residence, and homeownership status; it also presents information about respondents' civic attitudes and engagement behaviors. Additionally, it incorporates Long Beach and national comparison data, where available.⁶

This report focuses solely on data obtained from *Around the Table* participants who took the survey (respondents); it does not include information about the many people who participated in *Around the Table* conversations but did not fill out a survey. Therefore, while we have survey data for respondents, this data does not fully reflect participation in the *Around the Table* initiative. This study represents a subset of *Around the Table* participants—itsself a subset of the Long Beach population—who self-selected to respond to the survey. Without having survey data for everyone who participated in the *Around the Table* initiative, we are unable to explain differences (if any) between our respondent group and regional and national comparison groups.⁷

We have included LBCF and We Love Long Beach's outreach strategy for broad representation in *Around the Table* in Appendix C. According to their outreach strategy, they divided the city into five sectors as a way of connecting with many marginalized communities in Long Beach. The five sectors included the Civic Sector, the Nonprofit Sector, the Faith Sector, the Neighborhood Association Sector, and the Business Sector. For a list of the organizations in each sector to which LBCF and We Love Long Beach reached out, see Appendix C.

Demographics

Gender and Age

Seventy percent of respondents identified as female, and 29% identified as male (see Figure B.1). At 29%, the largest age group was made up of respondents who were 60 years old and up, and at 9%, the smallest age group was made up of respondents who were 18 to 29 years old (see Figure B.2). The percentage of Long Beach respondents who were 60 years old and up was higher than the percentage of Long Beach residents in this age range. Twenty-nine percent of Long Beach respondents reported an age in the 60-years-old-and-up range, while 20% of all Long Beach residents are aged 60 years old and up. Long Beach respondents who made up the youngest age group (18 to 29 years old) were an underrepresented group. Whereas 8% of Long Beach respondents were aged 18 to 29, 26% of all Long

⁶ When comparing *Around the Table* data to Long Beach resident data, only those respondents who live in Long Beach (and not the full data set) are compared to the representative data.

⁷ For example, the respondent group contains 70% female and 29% male. While it is possible that this accurately reflects participant make-up, it is also possible that the participant breakdown was closer to 50/50, but females responded to the survey at disproportionately higher rates. Without having data for all participants, we cannot know if the rate at which certain groups participated was proportional or disproportional.



Beach residents make up this age group. The percentages of Long Beach respondents in their 30s, 40s, and 50s were close to being representative of Long Beach residents (see Figure B.3).⁸

Educational Attainment

Respondents reported high levels of educational attainment. Both respondent data and Long Beach data reflect highest degree obtained. Forty percent of respondents reported having earned a graduate degree, and 32% reported having earned a bachelor's degree (see Figure B.4). When compared to Long Beach as a whole, there was strong overrepresentation of respondents who are in possession of a graduate degree.⁹ Ten percent of all Long Beach residents have a graduate degree, which is four times less than the 42% of Long Beach respondents who said they have a graduate degree. There was also overrepresentation of respondents with a bachelor's degree, as 37% of Long Beach respondents said they have a bachelor's degree, compared to 19% of all Long Beach residents. Respondents with some college, a high school diploma or GED, and less than a high school education were all underrepresented compared to their city counterparts. Ten percent of Long Beach respondents said they have obtained some college, while 23% of all Long Beach residents say the same. Three percent of Long Beach respondents said they have a high school diploma or GED, compared to 19% of all Long Beach respondents. Finally, while 0% of Long Beach respondents said they have less than a high school education, 21% of all Long Beach residents have the same level of education (see Figure B.5).¹⁰

Race

As mentioned in Appendix C, although LBCF and We Love Long Beach strategically reached out to and invited many diverse groups and organizations to participate in *Around the Table*, survey responses were primarily from White respondents. Two-thirds of respondents (66%) identified as White. At 13%, Hispanic or Latino/a respondents made up the next largest group. Small percentages of respondents identified as Multiracial (7%), Black or African American (5%), and Asian (5%) (see Figure B.6).¹¹ Long Beach respondents who identified as White were a highly overrepresented group. While 71% of Long Beach respondents identified as White, 33% of all Long Beach residents are White. Hispanic or Latino/a, Black or African American, and Asian respondents were underrepresented groups. Twelve percent of Long Beach respondents said they were Hispanic or Latino/a, while 37% of all Long Beach residents are Hispanic or Latino/a. Four percent of Long Beach respondents identified as Black or African American, while 12% of all Long Beach residents identify as Black or African American. Similarly, while 4% of Long Beach respondents said they were Asian, 14% of all Long Beach residents are Asian. Finally, the percentage of Multiracial respondents in Long Beach was higher than the percentage of all Multiracial

⁸ U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S0101; generated using American FactFinder; <<http://factfinder2.census.gov>>; (17 May 2017).

⁹ For the education variable, in addition to including only those respondents who live in Long Beach when comparing to representative data, only those 25 years of age or older were included as well (as opposed to the full data set).

¹⁰ U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S0101; generated using American FactFinder; <<http://factfinder2.census.gov>>; (17 May 2017).

¹¹ Unlike Census data, the *Around the Table* race variable features an "Other" response option. Because of this, the *Around the Table* race percentages are very modestly lower than they would be if the "Other" was not a featured category.

residents in Long Beach. Whereas 3% of all Long Beach residents are Multiracial, 7% of Long Beach respondents identified as Multiracial (see Figure B.7).¹²

Geography

Nearly all respondents (95%) indicated they currently live in Los Angeles County (see Figure B.8). A majority of respondents (88%) said they live in Long Beach (see Figure B.9). The top respondent ZIP codes include 90808 (19%), 90803 (13%), 90815 (13%), 90807 (11%), and 90802 (9%) (see Figure B.10). Long Beach divided into five areas shows the following distribution of respondents: East Long Beach (36%), Belmont Shore/Belmont Heights (30%), Bixby Knolls/Uptown (14%), Downtown (10%), and Westside/Wrigley (10%) (see Figure B.11).

Length of Residence

A large proportion (40%) of respondents said they were long-term residents who have lived in their local community for 20 or more years; comparatively, 32% of people in the United States have lived in their local community for this length of time. At 24%, newcomers, or those who have lived in their local community for zero to four years, featured the next greatest number of respondents; in comparison, 28% of people nationally have lived in their local community for this short amount of time. The 15% of respondents who have lived in their local community for five to nine years, and the 21% of respondents who have lived in their local community for 10 to 19 years were nearly equivalent to the 16% and 23% of U.S. residents who have lived in their communities for these respective lengths of time (see Figure B.12).¹³

Homeownership

Regarding homeownership status, 66% of respondents indicated they own their primary residence, and 31% said they rent (see Figure B.13).¹⁴ Respondent homeowners in Long Beach were an overrepresented group when compared to all homeowners in Long Beach. Over two-thirds (69%) of Long Beach respondents said they own their primary residence, compared to 40% of all Long Beach residents (see Figure B.14).¹⁵

Relationship to LBCF

When asked about their relationship to LBCF, 53% said they had not heard of the Foundation prior to participating in *Around the Table*. However, many respondents have had some kind of relationship with LBCF: 30% said they have attended one of their events, 7% said they are grantees, 6% said they have volunteered with them, 3% said they are funders, and 2% said they work there. Eleven percent indicated

¹² U.S. Census Bureau; 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, *Voting Age Population by Citizenship and Race (CVAP)*, published 02/01/2017.

¹³ Pew Research Center, December, 2008, "American Mobility. Who Moves? Who Stays Put? Where's Home?"

¹⁴ Just like the race variable, the *Around the Table* homeownership variable also features an "Other" response option (unlike in the Census data), which has slight implications for the *Around the Table* homeownership percentages showing lower than they otherwise would.

¹⁵ U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table DP04; generated using American FactFinder; <<http://factfinder2.census.gov>>; (17 May 2017).



some other relationship to LBCF than that which were listed, with the top “other” response being that respondents had heard of LBCF (see Figure B.15).

Civic Attitudes and Activities

Personal Impact and Community Attachment

Respondents reported largely positive attitudes toward their own potential for influencing change and toward their local community. With regard to how much impact respondents think people like themselves can have in making their community a better place to live, 48% indicated that they believe they can have a big impact, and 35% said they believe they can have a moderate impact. The 48% of respondents who think they can have a big impact was higher than the 32% of people nationally who believe they have this level of efficacy, while the 35% of respondents who believe they can have a moderate impact was nearly on par with the national percentage of 37% (see Figure B.16).¹⁶ Respondents also reported high levels of attachment to their local community. Nearly two-thirds (63%) reported feeling very attached, which was much higher than the 19% of people in the United States who say they are very attached (see Figure B.17).¹⁷

Social Issues

When respondents were asked to identify the social issues that are most important to them, 50% said housing and homelessness, 39% said education and youth development, and 31% said economic issues and poverty (see Figure B.18). Following this, using the same set of issue areas, respondents were asked to identify the social issues to which they primarily contribute their time, talent, and/or financial resources. Forty-four percent indicated they contribute to education and youth development, 34% indicated family, and 25% indicated arts and culture (see Figure B.19).¹⁸

Most Important Problem Facing Long Beach

According to 59% of respondents, housing and homelessness was the one most important problem facing Long Beach (see Figure B.42).¹⁹ Within this theme, a large proportion of respondents mentioned homelessness as an important problem. Respondents often referenced homelessness with an accompanying problem, such as a lack of affordable housing, crime, economic disparity, mental illness, poverty, and gentrification. Some were more compassionate in their perception of homelessness as a problem—“It saddens me to see a growing homeless population”—and others expressed frustration with the problem—“allowing the homeless to take over public spaces[:] the beach, the parks, the overpasses, etc.”²⁰

¹⁶ Pew Research Center, November 2016, “Civic Engagement Strongly Tied to Local News Habits.”

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ We used our issues codebook (see Appendix D) to populate the response options for these two questions highlighting important social issues and contributions to social issues.

¹⁹ More detail on this theme and the other themes that emerged within this variable can be found in Appendix D, which describes the themes that make up the issues codebook.

²⁰ Quotes included in text represent respondents’ individual opinions and were selected for the purpose of illustrating a broader theme.

A number of respondents also mentioned housing in terms of the current housing crisis. Housing costs and affordable housing were top of mind for many of these respondents. One respondent found “skyrocketing rent” to be a problem and went on to explain, “We were once a place where low-income or average folk could live comfortably . . . and afford housing.” Other respondents expressed similar complaints: “Rents are rising faster than wages and most of the new housing is luxury apartments that have even higher rents” and “Residents feel (and are) being pushed aside as rents increase and buildings are sold. . . . Resident and local business owners are very worried that they won’t be able to afford to be here much longer.” “Zoning issues” play a role in the housing problem, with respondents under the impression that “Long Beach is on the path to too much housing density.”

Just under one-third (31%) of respondents said that economic issues and poverty was the one most important problem facing Long Beach. Some overlap can be seen with the theme of housing and homelessness, as respondents brought up housing in terms of its cost and its high-density development. One respondent said there is “not enough housing for the lower income families and too much housing for the rich,” and another said there is a “lack of economic opportunity and housing for low-income folks,” with both of these respondents and other respondents indicating the need for more affordable housing. Respondents also frequently mentioned both homelessness and poverty. Others commented on problems with the economy, citing an “economic divide,” “economic disparity” and a “lack of economic equity,” and also indicating that there is “[un]equal economic opportunity,” and “income inequality.”

Over one-quarter (28%) of respondents indicated that equity and social inclusion was the one most important problem facing Long Beach. Given the related issues of access and inclusion, housing, again, was a primary topic of concern within this theme, as was homelessness. A number of respondents focused their attention on gentrification and “all that it brings,” especially with regard to maintaining one’s home. “Rising rent prices . . . make it difficult for those on minimum wage to live here,” said one respondent, and another admitted to being “priced out of the community” after living in Long Beach for many years. As one respondent put it, they want to see “sustainable[,] inclusive growth as opposed to rapid [development] and gentrification.” Many respondents brought up a lack of affordable housing. As one respondent noted, Long Beach’s main problem is “getting the services we already have to better address a huge homeless transient population. Different sectors of the city have unequal response and support from [the] city government addressing these issues.” Other respondents noted this problem of inequality in support and resources, depending on area of the city; according to one respondent, there is an issue with “equity in areas not well served by current community resources, such as the North and West areas of the city.” Another respondent identified “income equality between [the] east and west sides” of the city.

This issue of a lack of resources in some parts of the city points to a larger problem of poverty for some respondents. As one respondent said, there is “a lack of an adequate source, supply[,] and amount of money to attack the myriad of social and infrastructure problems facing our city.” With regard to economic inequality across the city—“the city has a lot of pockets of lower economic, homeless, gang, etc. areas. There are middle class and wealthy areas as well. There is [a] big discrepancy between these



areas,” explained one respondent—respondents want to feel not only “more safe,” as that one respondent continued to explain, but also “more unified and less polarized.” Another respondent expressed wanting to maintain “the feeling of inclusiveness and welcome in the current political climate, especially in a city with such a diverse community.” Inclusivity proved important to a third respondent, who said that Long Beach needs to determine “how we can be a community that includes everyone in the process, not just those who have wealth.” Furthermore, some respondents brought up access and inclusion for youth, specifically. A few respondents indicated there needs to be more “access to services for youth” and better “education for lower income youth.” According to one respondent, Long Beach needs to serve better “children of low and no income families to ensure their health and quality education and academic careers.” There is also a “lack of youth voice and [an] imbalance [in] which communities get heard.”

How to Address Most Important Problem Facing Long Beach and With Whom

Respondents indicated a variety of methods for addressing the one most important problem they perceive to be facing Long Beach. Over one-half (55%) of respondents said they can raise awareness and educate others, 52% said build relationships and collaborate, 50% said get more involved in community, 41% said volunteer, and 36% said become more politically active (see Figure B.43). In terms of with whom respondents would like to work to address this problem, 57% said nonprofit organizations, 56% said residents or people from the community, 55% said neighborhood groups or associations, and 48% said government (see Figure B.44).

Groups of Interest

Respondents also expressed interest in joining a myriad of groups in their neighborhood. At 65%, the largest proportion of respondents said they are interested in joining block parties and gatherings. Following that, 43% said movie nights, 41% said walking or running group, 37% said an arts and crafts group, 32% said a cooking group, 31% said a book group, 30% said a yoga group, and 29% said a gardening or crop share group (see Figure B.45).

Engagement Habits

Respondents reported high levels of engagement across all measures. One-quarter (25%) of respondents said they were very involved in community and neighborhood activities, whereas only 11% of people nationally indicate this level of involvement. An even larger percentage of respondents (49%) said they were somewhat involved, which is higher than the 39% of people nationally who say the same (see Figure B.20).²¹

In terms of how they engaged with their community over the past year, respondents were most likely to donate and volunteer, with 77% saying that they donated more than \$25 to a charitable organization within the past year and 72% saying that they volunteered within the past year. With regard to how respondents compare to national percentages, respondents who donated and respondents who volunteered were both overrepresented groups. Fifty percent of people nationally donated (compared

²¹ Pew Research Center, December, 2008, “American Mobility. Who Moves? Who Stays Put? Where's Home?”



to 77% of respondents), and 24% volunteered (compared to 72% of respondents). Respondents also reported attending a public meeting about community affairs within the past year, with 61% indicating this level of engagement; in comparison, only 8% of U.S. residents did the same, which is 7.5 times less than the respondent percentage. Finally, 43% indicated they worked with people in their neighborhood to fix or improve something, which is over five times greater than the 8% of people nationally who did the same (see Figure B.21).²² When it comes to voting in local elections, 68% of respondents reported that they always vote (see Figure B.22).

Places to Connect

Respondents reported connecting with others in a variety of places. Forty-five percent said they like to connect with others at parks, 37% cited schools, and 35% identified religious institutions. Just under one-third (31%) of respondents indicated a place other than those provided in the response options, with the top three “Other” responses including community events and meetings (10%), restaurants (5%), and community service activities (5%). Finally, 29% specified connecting at public squares (see Figure B.23).

Engagement with News Sources

Respondents also reported the frequency with which they get information about their local community from common online and offline sources. Over one-half (57%) of respondents said they receive information about their local community from word of mouth several times a week to every day; in comparison, 31% of people nationally rely on word of mouth this frequently (see Figure B.30). Similarly, 56% of respondents indicated they rely on social networking sites several times a week to every day to consume information about their local community, which was more than five times the percentage at which people nationally used social media sites to get local information this frequently (11%) (see Figure B.28). With regard to local newspapers, 39% of respondents said they consult a newspaper for information about their local community several times a week to every day, while 28% of people nationally do the same (see Figure B.24). Over one-third (34%) of respondents reported gathering information from newsletters or e-mail listservs several times a week to every day, which was four times the percentage of people nationally who rely on newsletters or e-mail listservs this frequently (8%) (see Figure B.29). The 32% of respondents who indicated they watch local television news several times a week to every day for information about their local community was less than the 51% of people nationally who do the same (see Figure B.25). Similarly, the 29% of respondents who reported tuning in to local radio for information about their local community several times a week to every day was less than the 35% of people nationally who listen to the radio for news this frequently (see Figure B.26). Finally, 24% of respondents indicated they read blogs for information about their local community several times a week to every day, which was nearly five times greater than the national percentage of 5% for this level of frequency regarding blogs (see Figure B.27).²³

²² United States Department of Commerce. Bureau of Census, United States Department of Labor. Bureau of Labor Statistics, and Corporation for National and Community Service. Current Population Survey, September 2015: Volunteer Supplement. ICPSR36411-v1. Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], 2016-04-29. <https://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR36411.v1>

²³ Pew Research Center, November, 2016, “Civic Engagement Strongly Tied to Local News Habits.”



How Did the Conversations Go?

An essential aspect of this research is exploring the conversations themselves. This section groups data on why respondents were drawn to the conversations, where the conversations took place, and the relative familiarity or unfamiliarity with the other participants in the conversation. It also uncovers the range of issues respondents raised in conversation, and it describes solutions or next steps that respondents reported were generated from their conversations. Finally, it discusses content shared about *Around the Table* on social media.

Conversation Dynamics

Respondents reported participating in *Around the Table* for a number of reasons. Fifty-five percent of respondents said they participated in order to learn from and listen to others, and 53% said they wanted to discuss and address important issues in their community. Furthermore, 48% of respondents wanted to meet and build relationships with new people, and another 48% of respondents participated to get more involved in their community (see Figure B.31).

In terms of who made up the other people at the conversation, 49% of respondents said they were mostly people respondents did not know before the conversation. Additionally, 29% said there was an equal mix of both people respondents knew and did not know before the conversation, and 21% said others at the conversation were mostly people respondents knew before the conversation (see Figure B.32).

With regard to the county and city where their conversations took place, 100% of respondents said conversations occurred in Los Angeles County (see Figure B.33), and 100% of respondents said their conversations occurred in Long Beach (see Figure B.34). Respondents reported a variety of ZIP codes where their conversations took place. Over one-fifth (22%) of respondents said their conversations took place in 90802, 19% of respondents said 90808, 18% of respondents said 90807, 14% of respondents said 90803, and 12% said 90815 (see Figure B.35). With regard to geographic areas, 30% of respondents said their conversations took place in East Long Beach, 22% said Bixby Knolls/Uptown, 22% said Downtown, 18% said Belmont Shore/Belmont Heights, and 8% said Westside/Wrigley (see Figure B.36).

Issues Discussed

Around the Table is an opportunity for participants to raise and discuss issues that impact the quality of life in and around Long Beach. A majority of respondents (73%) reported raising an issue of concern in their conversation. The issues that emerged help identify respondents' priorities and concerns and where they would like to see their communities headed.

Housing and homelessness was clearly a strong theme that emerged from survey results. As seen in the "Civic Attitudes and Activities" section, housing and homelessness was considered the most important problem facing Long Beach by over one-half of respondents, which was nearly double the percentage of the second most frequently cited problem (economic issues and poverty). Additionally, one-half of respondents said housing and homelessness was a social issue that is important to them. When it comes to the issues respondents reported raising in conversation, as discussed below, housing and



homelessness ranked first as the most talked about issue in *Around the Table*, and once again, it was nearly double the percentage of the next two most frequently talked about issues (transportation and economic issues and poverty). The frequency with which it appears as the number one issue in the survey results for certain questions demonstrates how this theme both permeated the content of conversations and affects respondents' lives.

According to the issue areas we developed, housing and homelessness ranked first as the most talked about issue in *Around the Table*, with 42% having raised an issue related to this theme (see Figure B.37). Respondents raised two primary areas of concern: a lack of affordable housing and the increasing homelessness in Long Beach. When talking about housing, especially the need for more affordable housing, respondents referenced "housing costs and [its] effect on our younger generations" and wanting to "find ways to lower the cost of housing to encourage more young families to settle in Long Beach."²⁴ Respondents noted wanting to increase access to affordable housing and address the housing shortage for low-income individuals and families. However, other respondents expressed concern for high-density housing, or "the plan for increased residential density in an already built[-]out city."

Many respondents expressed wanting to take on the growing problem of homelessness. There were a number of respondents who brought up "the negative effect of homeless people in public places." They have noticed "lots of homeless in the parks" and are worried because "aggressive homeless people seem to be increasing in number in this area and there has not been a visible police presence." Some respondents identified crimes committed by the homeless as being problematic, such as "defacing and littering and breaking into properties." However, many other respondents expressed wanting to "better understand" homelessness so that they could "better help" respond to the issue with "compassionate solutions." As one respondent mentioned, there is a need to both "adequately support [the homeless] and keep our community safe." In this regard, responses ranged from simply wanting to see more homeless shelters to wanting to see services offered that better address the needs of the homeless. For example, a respondent mentioned "providing services and support to keep homeless families together" in addition to "programs to provide funding for move-in costs." One respondent noted that there are "too many homeless in the community that are not being taken care [of] and must [be] taken [off] the streets," and another respondent commented that "we need more help with the homeless in the community, rather than pushing them different places." For many respondents, there needs to be greater "homeless advocacy," in general.

Just under one-quarter (24%) of respondents raised issues related to transportation. Respondents primarily mentioned "parking problems throughout the whole city" and the need for "better parking." According to respondents, there is a "lack of parking city wide," "not enough parking," and "parking shortages." One respondent said "parking is very bad and only getting worse," and another respondent brought up that there is "no parking [available] on the streets yet increased density is planned." Some

²⁴ Quotes included in text represent respondents' individual opinions and were selected for the purpose of illustrating a broader theme.

other respondents commented on “poor parking etiquette” and the “need for . . . better car parking etiquette.”

Within transportation, respondents also brought up problems with streets, traffic, and biking. With regard to streets, respondents mentioned concerns with street conditions, street repairs, and street lights. According to one respondent, “roads['] infrastructure are neglected, [and] poor road conditions, pot holes, [and the] patched replacement approach gives a very poor image.” In terms of traffic, respondents said they have noticed “increased traffic” into and out of the city. One respondent said “traffic issues [are] resulting from additional housing development.” Some have also taken issue with a “lack of traffic cops” and “police traffic patrol.” Finally, regarding biking, respondents expressed concern with bike safety. One respondent brought up “bikers not following the rules of the road,” and another respondent pointed out that “bike lanes aren’t bike friendly.”

Following transportation, 23% of respondents raised an issue related to economic issues and poverty. This theme saw some overlap with housing and homelessness, as some respondents noted a relationship between high rents and homelessness, and many respondents commented on the “cost of housing,” “access to affordable housing,” and “poverty and the need for low-income housing.” They also spoke more generally about affordability and took issue with the “high cost of living.” A few respondents spoke to the effects of gentrification, explaining, “rent is going up and people are being pushed out of their homes and businesses.” A number of respondents spoke out against “new high density development” and the “increased density planned,” especially as seen through “rezoning for more high density housing” and “the new plan to add low income housing to [their] neighborhood and areas where there are already stores and churches.” They do not want to see high rises but want to “maintain the community as it is.” Recent development concerns some respondents, especially “uncontrolled development.” According to one respondent, there needs to be a “balance between development and preservation.”

Relatedly, some respondents are fearful of the loss of small businesses in their community, and they want to see more support for local businesses in their neighborhoods. Respondents are concerned with “protecting [their] city’s neighborhood businesses and providing entrepreneurs incentives to start businesses in [Long Beach].” They believe in “keeping small business a priority in new developments” and see the “need to promote [small] business and stop interference from local Government.” According to respondents, there is the “difficulty of doing small business in Long Beach” and the “difficulty of starting a business in Long Beach.”

Solutions Generated

Around the Table is rooted in the idea that dialogue can spur new ideas for action. In addition to the discussion and dissection of issues in conversations, 49% of respondents said their conversations(s) generated a specific solution. We randomly selected a number of solutions to share for illustrative



purposes only.²⁵ These demonstrate the range respondents put forward—from high-level and complex ideas to simple actions that impact everyday life.

Several of the randomly selected ideas focused on helping the homeless population. One respondent suggested that redevelopment land parcels be used to provide housing for the homeless. Another respondent put forward the idea of erecting portable toilets near the homeless encampment along the San Gabriel River and Los Angeles River bike trails. A third respondent brought up providing job training centers for the homeless, and a fourth respondent wanted to create more resources for the homeless population.

Other respondents turned their attention to the betterment of the city of Long Beach and its leadership. According to one respondent, there needs to be a change in the operation of city departments and the current culture of saying “no” to ideas. Instead of shutting down initiatives that are perceived as reasonable, there need to be more “yeses” and approval of these enterprises. Furthermore, another respondent wants to see elected officials and city staff educated about nonprofits and foundations, and a third respondent cited a need to improve city-initiated communication about Long Beach events. Additionally, a respondent suggested that more public art can help bring in more tourism.

A couple of respondent ideas had to do with engagement and meetings. One of the respondents proposed getting involved with We Love Long Beach. Another respondent said that their conversation group made the decision to get together a second time and come up with a plan for their block.

Social Media

Social media provided an opportunity to deepen engagement efforts with *Around the Table* and expand participation in the initiative. LBCF and We Love Long Beach launched their social media campaign in July 2017 as a method of promoting *Around the Table* and creating a virtual space where conversations could begin or continue. The campaign served as a useful tool in capturing live content from conversations as they occurred and providing opportunities for online engagement by those who were not able to participate in physical conversations.

We used the social media monitoring platform Meltwater Buzz to analyze social media activity and understand the influence of this initiative in the digital realm.²⁶ We tracked the designated hashtag #AroundTheTableLB. In total, #AroundTheTableLB saw 496 public mentions; these mentions were amplified, generating 4 million total impressions. The month of September saw the highest number of mentions, which not surprisingly, peaked on the day of the *Around the Table* initiative.

²⁵ The mention of a specific solution does not indicate an endorsement from IPCE, LBCF, or We Love Long Beach. Furthermore, LBCF and We Love Long Beach should not be assumed to take responsibility for a solution mentioned in this report. We randomly selected the ideas referenced above in order to show the types of solutions that respondents proposed.

²⁶ See Appendix E for a visual summary of key findings from the social media analysis.



Social media captured the enthusiasm surrounding the initiative through an array of posts and picture-sharing on Twitter and Instagram; Twitter saw 275 tweets and Instagram featured 208 posts. Additionally, Twitter saw 98 unique influencers—accounts with large numbers of followers who helped amplify the message. When it comes to breaking down the levels of engagement on Twitter, 41% were original tweets, 55% were retweets, and 4% were @message tweets. Furthermore, 37% of tweets featured links, and 20% contained media.

Social connections went beyond advertising the initiative and spreading the word. Many offered commentary on what social media users were thinking about in the context of *Around the Table* or what they had discussed in conversations. Some comments from social media users include: “Connected communities build kind children. I’m so proud #AroundTheTableLB is happening in our driveway TONIGHT!”; “Lots of people say that the diversity and inclusiveness of Long Beach is what they love at #AroundTheTableLB”; “Meet the community where they are. #aroundthetablelb”; “Love that my city is trending!”; “Long Beach! Great conversations happening today! #AroundTheTableLB”; “yesterday! 300+ tables filled with 3,000+ residents sharing a meal & friendly conversation citywide.”

How Did Conversations Impact Respondents?

The short-term impact *Around the Table* conversations had on respondents demonstrates the significance and value of these types of civic conversations. This section brings together data regarding the outcomes of the conversations, including new connections forged and an understanding of how to address community issues. Additionally, it reports the likelihood of a respondent taking action following their conversation and the actions that respondents are most likely to take.

Conversation Outcomes and Future Action

Over three-quarters (78%) of respondents reported connecting with others at their conversation by speaking with one or more attendees they did not already know before and/or after the conversation. Thirty percent exchanged contact information with one or more attendees they did not already know, and 13% made specific plans to work with one or more attendees. Additionally, another 13% indicated not connecting with other conversation attendees in any of the ways listed in the response options (see Figure B.38).

While 14% of respondents said they have a much better understanding of how they, personally, can help address the issues facing their community after participating in their conversations, and 15% indicated no change in their understanding of how to address community issues, a majority of respondents fell in between those two extremes. Seventy percent of respondents said they have a little-to-somewhat-better understanding of how to help address issues following their conversations (see Figure B.39). In terms of how likely they are to take specific actions or next steps regarding an issue or solution discussed, 84% of respondents indicated they are somewhat-to-very likely to take action (see Figure B.40). Of the actions or next steps respondents are likely to take, 67% were interested in building relationships and collaborating, 63% said they want to get more involved in community, 52% hoped to raise awareness and educate others, and 46% indicated they intend to volunteer (see Figure B.41).



ANALYSIS

We conducted a set of analyses that go beyond the original guiding questions of this study. These analyses help deepen understanding of the survey response summary data and are useful in identifying areas of opportunity for further investigation or action. These additional analyses include an exploration of subgroup comparisons for groups such as gender, age, level of education, race, and geography across responses to a variety of questions. Once again, housing and homelessness is the theme that appears most often in these analyses of differences between subgroups.

The analyses also include disparities between the social issues respondents reported are most important to them and the social issues to which they said they contribute their time, talent, and/or financial resources. Additionally, this section features comparisons between responses to the custom questions asking about the one most important problem facing Long Beach and the best ways to help address this problem, as well as the one most important problem facing Long Beach and with whom respondents would like to work to address this problem.

Subgroup Comparisons

Each question analyzed in this section contains comparisons between various subgroups based on gender, age, level of education, race, and geographic regions.

Gender

Regarding gender, we conducted analyses between male- and female-identifying respondents. While the original survey provided an “Other” gender option, too few respondents selected this option for inclusion in subgroup analyses.

Age

Based on the original survey question, which asked for year of birth, we created five age groups categorized by decade: the youngest group (made up of respondents who were 18 to 29 years old), the 30s group, the 40s group, the 50s group, and respondents who were 60 years old and older.

Education Level

Though more specific information regarding respondents’ educational background was obtained, we dichotomized responses for the purpose of analysis. We divided responses into two categories: college-educated (made up of respondents with a college degree or higher) and non-college-educated (made up of respondents with some college or less).

Race

For an analysis by race, we created four racial subgroups: Blacks (consisting of respondents indicating Black or African American), Whites (consisting of respondents indicating White), Latinos (consisting of respondents indicating Hispanic or Latino/a), and Other (which includes respondents indicating American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, and Other).



Geography

For the geography variable, we categorized respondents in Long Beach into five areas based on their self-reported place of residence: Belmont Shore/Belmont Heights, Bixby Knolls/Uptown, Downtown, East Long Beach, and Westside/Wrigley.

Important Social Issue

In this section, subgroups were analyzed by their responses to a close-ended, multiple-choice question asking, “Which of the following social issues are most important to you?”²⁷

Analyses by gender indicated that female respondents were more likely to select education and youth development and housing and homelessness as one of the social issues most important to them than were male respondents. Forty-four percent of female respondents chose education and youth development; in comparison, 29% of male respondents chose the same issue. At 53%, female respondents chose housing and homelessness, compared to the 43% of male respondents who did the same.

When respondents were analyzed by age, education and youth development, family, and housing and homelessness were the issues with the most difference between groups. Respondents in the three youngest age groups (18 to 29 years old, 30s, and 40s) were most likely to select education and youth development and family as social issues most important to them. While an average of 30% of respondents in the two oldest age groups (50s, 60 years old and up) chose education and youth development, an average of 49% of respondents in the three youngest age groups named the same issue. With regard to family, while an average of 15% of respondents in the two oldest age groups selected this issue, an average of twice as many, or 31%, of respondents in the three youngest age groups did the same. At 58%, the oldest age group (60 years old and up) was most likely to select housing and homelessness, and at 40%, the youngest age group (18 to 29 year olds) was least likely to choose this issue.

In considering education level, college-educated respondents were more likely to select education and youth development and less likely to select food access as issues most important to them. Whereas 26% of non-college-educated respondents chose education and youth development, 43% of college-educated respondents chose this issue. Yet, while only 5% of college-educated respondents identified food access as an important social issue, over twice as many, or 13%, of non-college-educated respondents identified the same issue.

With regard to race, there were noteworthy differences in how groups prioritized religion and morals, immigration and migration, and environment and parks. Latino respondents were least likely to select religion and morals as an important social issue; 0% of Latino respondents named religion and morals, compared to 12% of Black respondents and 12% of White respondents. However, Latino respondents were most likely to choose immigration and migration, as 18% of this group identified this issue area; in comparison, 8% of White respondents and 3% of Black respondents selected immigration and migration.

²⁷ See Appendix D for the full list of issues and their definitions.

Finally, at 31%, White respondents were most likely to select environment and parks, while 22% of Latino respondents and 12% of Black respondents did the same.

Most notable from the analyses by geographic areas were the variances in how respondents from different geographies prioritized the social issues of family, food access, housing and homelessness, and education and youth development. Respondents in East Long Beach were most likely to select family, with 36% of this group choosing this social issue. In comparison, an average of 15% in the other four groups named family as an important social issue. Respondents in Westside/Wrigley were much more likely to select food access. Three and a half as many, or 21% of, Westside/Wrigley respondents selected food access compared to an average of 6% in the other four groups. Respondents in Westside/Wrigley were also most likely to select housing and homelessness (60%), whereas East Long Beach respondents were least likely to choose this issue (41%). With an average of 24%, Downtown respondents and Westside/Wrigley respondents were least likely to choose education and youth development; the other three groups featured an average of 40% of respondents selecting this social issue.

Primary Social Issue Contribution

The following subgroup analyses were based on the closed response question, “To which social issues do you PRIMARILY contribute your time, talent, and/or financial resources?” Response options were identical to the question above regarding important social issues.

Gender analyses revealed male respondents were three times more likely to choose media and awareness as a social issue to which they contribute and four times as likely to select technology. Whereas only 3% of females identified media and awareness as a social issue to which they contribute, 9% of male respondents named the same. Similarly, while only 2% of female respondents selected technology, 8% of male respondents chose the same.

Analyses by age showed that respondents in the youngest age group (18 to 29 year olds) were most likely to contribute their time, talent, and/or financial resources to media and awareness, technology, and transportation. Eighteen percent of the youngest age group said they contribute to media and awareness, compared to an average of three percent in the remaining four groups. Similarly, 12% of the youngest age group selected technology as an area of contribution, while an average of 3% of respondents in the other four age groups did the same. Finally, 10% of respondents in the youngest age group identified transportation as an issue to which they contribute, compared to an average of 2% in the remaining four age groups.

College-educated respondents were more likely to select education and youth development as a social issue to which they primarily contribute. Nearly one-half (48%) of college-educated respondents chose education and youth development, compared to 32% of non-college-educated respondents. Conversely, respondents without a college degree were more likely to indicate that they contribute to housing and homelessness than the 16% of respondents with a college degree who made the same selection.



When respondents were grouped by race, differences were seen regarding a couple social issues, including equity and social inclusion and religion and morals. At 29%, Black respondents were most likely to select equity and social inclusion as a social issue to which they primarily contribute, compared to 16% of White respondents and 12% of Latino respondents. Latino respondents, however, were least likely to select religion and morals. Whereas 11% of Latino respondents selected this social issue, 21% of White respondents and 23% of Black respondents did the same.

When respondents were grouped by geographic areas, there were differences with regard to family as well as education and youth development. East Long Beach respondents were most likely to select family as an issue area to which they contribute. Compared to an average of 24% for the other four geographic groups, 46% of East Long Beach respondents chose family. Downtown respondents and Westside/Wrigley respondents were least likely to identify education and youth development as an area of contribution. An average of 30% of respondents in these two geographic groups selected education and youth development, while an average of 48% of respondents in the other three groups chose the same.

Most Important Problem

Survey respondents were asked to answer the open-response question, “What is the one most important problem facing Long Beach?” We categorized responses using our issues codebook.²⁸

Analyses by age showed that female respondents were more likely than male respondents to identify a problem related to housing and homelessness. Compared to 49% of male respondents, 64% of female respondents named housing and homelessness as the most important problem facing Long Beach.

With regard to age, the two oldest respondent groups (50s, 60 years old and up) were more likely to mention a problem related to government. An average of 14% of respondents in the two oldest groups named government compared to an average of 3% of respondents in the other three age groups.

Analyses conducted by geographic region revealed that the biggest difference between subgroups was for transportation issues. Twenty-one percent of Downtown respondents regard issues related to transportation as the most important problem facing Long Beach, compared to an average of 7% of respondents in the other four geographic areas. Additional geographic analyses showed that respondents who live in East Long Beach were least likely to cite housing and homelessness as the most important issue facing Long Beach. While less than one-half (48%) of East Long Beach respondents mentioned housing and homelessness, an average of 62% of respondents who live in other areas did the same.

Help Address Problem

Survey respondents were also asked the close-ended, multiple-choice question, “In which of the following ways can you best help to address this problem?”

²⁸ See Appendix D for the full list of issues and their definitions.

With regard to age, the oldest age group (60 years old and up) was much less likely to select “get more involved in community” and “take action through my job.” Whereas 36% of respondents in the oldest age group chose “get more involved in community,” an average of 56% of respondents in the remaining age groups did the same. Additionally, while 6% of respondents in the oldest age group selected “take action through my job,” an average of 23% of respondents in the other age groups identified the same solution. The youngest age group (18 to 29 year olds) were most likely to select “improve myself through personal development and learning.” An average of 20% of respondents for the other age groups chose this response, compared to 36% of respondents in the youngest group.

Analyses by geographic area showed that Downtown, Westside/Wrigley, and East Long Beach were, on average, twice as likely to respond “I don’t know,” compared to Belmont Shore/Belmont Heights and Bixby Knolls/Uptown. Twenty percent of respondents from Downtown Westside/Wrigley, and East Long Beach selected this response, while 9% of respondents in each of the other two groups did the same.

With Whom to Work

Respondents were additionally asked the closed-ended, multiple-choice question, “With whom would you like to work to address this problem?”

Age analyses revealed that the youngest age group (18 to 29 year old respondents) was consistently likely to want to work with all groups except for religious institutions. Distribution across the groups provided in the response options ranged from 49% to 61%, while religious institutions featured just 27% of the youngest respondents. Respondents in their 30s, 40s, and 50s were most likely to select neighborhood groups (60% average), residents (61% average), and nonprofit organizations (56% average), and the 50s group was slightly more likely to want to work with government (60%). The oldest age group (respondents 60 years old and up) ranked lowest for most response options; however, 60% of the oldest age group did select nonprofit organizations as a group with whom they would like to work.

Race analyses showed that Black respondents were most likely to select neighborhood groups or associations as well as residents or people from the community as those with whom they would like to work to address the problem they identified in a previous question. At 69%, Black respondents were most likely to select neighborhood groups or associations, compared to 53% of White respondents and 48% of Latino respondents. Furthermore, 72% of Black respondents chose residents or people from the community, while 58% of White respondents and 43% of Latino respondents selected the same.

Neighborhood Groups to Join

In this section, subgroup analyses were performed on responses from the closed-ended, multiple choice prompt, “So that We Love Long Beach may better understand the interests in your community, please select the group(s) you would be interested in joining in your neighborhood.”

Analyses by gender revealed that female respondents were more likely to select yoga group and book group, while male respondents were more likely to select sports group. Over one-third (36%) of female



respondents chose yoga group, compared to 17% of male respondents. Similarly, 36% of female respondents selected book group, and 19% of male respondents did the same. However, 31% of male respondents chose sports group, while 14% of females selected the same.

With regard to age, the two youngest age groups (18 to 29-year-old respondents and respondents in their 30s) were more likely to show interest in joining a group compared to the oldest group (respondents 60 years old and up); the youngest two groups had an overall average of 42%, versus 22% for the oldest age group. Furthermore, the younger the respondent, the more likely they were to be interested in movie nights, sports groups, and yoga groups. Over two-thirds (67%) of the youngest age group selected movie night, compared to 19% of the oldest age group. Forty-four percent of respondents in the youngest age group chose sports groups, while 10% of the oldest age group did the same. One-half (50%) of respondents in the youngest age group selected yoga groups, whereas 16% of the oldest group did the same. Finally, the biggest between-group difference exists for kids play group, where 43% of respondents in their 30s selected it, compared to an average of 7% for all other age groups.

Analyses by race showed that Black respondents were most likely to select movie nights as a group they would be interested in joining. While 80% of Black respondents chose movie nights, 45% of Latino respondents and 40% of White respondents did the same.

When respondents were grouped by geographic area, Downtown respondents and Westside/Wrigley respondents were more likely to select arts and crafts group. An average of 50% of respondents in Downtown and Westside/Wrigley chose arts and crafts groups, compared to an average of 32% of respondents in the other three geographic areas.

Issues Raised During Conversation

Survey respondents were asked to respond to the question, “Did you raise an issue of concern regarding your community? If yes, please specify.” We categorized responses using our issues codebook.²⁹

Analyses by age revealed that the youngest age group (18 to 29 year old respondents) was least likely to mention housing and homelessness in conversation. Just over one-quarter (26%) of respondents in the youngest age group brought up an issue related to housing and homelessness in their conversation, compared to an average of 44% of respondents in the other four age groups.

Analyses by race showed that White respondents were most likely to mention government in their conversation. Seventeen percent of White respondents raised an issue of concern related to government, while 8% of Black respondents and 3% of Latino respondents did the same.

When respondents were analyzed by geographic area, there were discrepancies with regard to economic issues and poverty, public safety and the judicial system, and housing and homelessness. Respondents in Bixby Knolls/Uptown were most likely to mention economic issues and poverty in their

²⁹ See Appendix D for the full list of issues and their definitions.

conversation (38%), while Westside/Wrigley respondents were least likely to mention this issue (11%). At 23%, Bixby Knolls/Uptown respondents were also most likely to mention public safety and the judicial system, which was nearly three times more than the 8% of East Long Beach respondents who brought up this issue. Belmont Shore/Belmont Heights respondents, Bixby Knolls/ Uptown respondents, and Downtown respondents were much more likely to bring up an issue related to housing and homelessness; an average of 50% of respondents in these three groups mentioned housing and homelessness, compared to 33% of respondents in each of the other two geographic groups.

How and With Whom to Address Top Problems (Custom Questions Comparison)

This section provides comparisons between responses to the custom questions asking about the one most important problem facing Long Beach and the best ways to help address this problem, as well as the one most important problem facing Long Beach and with whom respondents would like to work to address this problem. We analyzed responses using the top three problems respondents identified: housing and homelessness, economic issues and poverty, and equity and social inclusion.

Across the board, of the respondents who provided a problem related to one of these three issue areas, large proportions said they could help address the problem by building relationships and collaborating, getting more involved in community, and raising awareness and educating others. Noteworthy percentages also identified nonprofit organizations, government, neighborhood groups or associations, and residents or people from the community as groups with whom they would like to work to address the problem they identified. There were differences, however, in the percentages and ranking of these three actions and four groups within each of the problems identified.

With regard to respondents who mentioned a problem related to housing and homelessness, 56% of them said they could raise awareness and educate others; behind that, 49% said they could get more involved in community, and 48% said they could build relationships and collaborate. For those respondents who named a problem related to economic issues and poverty, again, 56% of them said they could raise awareness and educate others; this was followed by 53% of them who said they could build relationships and collaborate, and 52% of them who said they could get more involved in community. In terms of those respondents who identified a problem related to equity and social inclusion, 58% of them said they could raise awareness and educate others; 54% of them said they could build relationships and collaborate, which was tied with the 54% who said they could get more involved in community.

Of the respondents who named a problem related to housing and homelessness, 62% of them said they would like to work with nonprofit organizations; this was followed by 55% of them who said neighborhood groups or associations, 54% of them who said residents or people from the community, and 50% of them who said government. For those respondents who identified a problem related to economic issues and poverty, 60% of them said they would like to work with residents or people from the community; 54% of them said nonprofit organizations, 53% of them said government, and another 53% of them said neighborhood groups or associations. With regard to respondents who mentioned a problem related to equity and social inclusion, 62% of them said they would like to work with residents



or people from the community and 61% of them said nonprofit organizations; behind that, 59% of them said neighborhood groups or associations, and 55% of them said government.

A few other noteworthy differences emerged in this analysis. Respondents who mentioned a problem related to housing and homelessness were almost twice as likely to say they could donate to help address this problem (28%), compared to respondents who did not mention a problem related to housing and homelessness (16%). Within economic issues and poverty, respondents who brought up a problem related to this theme were more likely to say they could support local businesses (31%), as opposed to those who did not bring up a problem related to economic issues and poverty (20%). Finally, respondents who named a problem related to equity and social inclusion were more likely to want to work with foundations (45%) than were respondents who did not name a problem related to equity and social inclusion (30%).

Disparity between Important Issues and Contributions

When considering the social issues that were most important to respondents (important issues) and the social issues to which they contribute their time, talent, and/or financial resources (contributions), the data reveal disparities between these two variables (see Appendix F). These disparities can be useful indicators of social issues where greater contributions of time, talent, and financial resources are needed.

Immigration and migration resulted in the greatest issues-to-contributions disparity. Among the respondents who mentioned immigration and migration as an important social issue, only 9% also reported that they contribute their time, talent, and/or financial resources to this cause. Transportation featured the next greatest disparity, with 19% of those concerned with this social issue also contributing toward it. Economic issues and poverty as well as government tied for the third greatest disparity, with only 23% of respondents who consider these two social issues important also saying they contribute toward them. Notably, housing and homelessness had, by far, the highest number of respondents considering it the most important social issue (n=282), and yet only 30% of these respondents reported contributing their time, talent, and financial resources to it. Education and youth development had the second highest number of respondents who consider it the most important social issue (n=222), and 72% of respondents reported contributing to it. Religion and morals featured the smallest issues-to-contributions disparity, as 79% of respondents who identified it as an important issue also said they contribute to it.



CONCLUSION

This report was an exploratory study examining the content of *Around the Table* conversations and information about survey respondents. While results cannot be generalized to the broader Long Beach population, this study reveals important insights that are worth highlighting.

First, *Around the Table* respondents were a highly engaged group across all measures considered, especially when comparing respondents to national data. The majority of respondents said they are involved in community and neighborhood activities, with notable proportions of respondents reporting having donated and volunteered this past year. Slightly smaller but still noteworthy percentages were seen for respondents who have been involved in less common but highly impactful engagement activities, such as attending a public meeting about community affairs and working with people in their neighborhood to fix or improve something. Given their habits, these respondents are in a unique position to work to help improve the community and enhance the quality of life for other Long Beach residents. Having such an engaged respondent group can be useful to LBCF and We Love Long Beach as they seek to broaden the reach and impact of these kinds of community conversations. Respondents can, in a sense, serve as community liaisons to bring the outcomes and aftereffects of these conversations to residents who are less involved in and less connected to their communities.

Second, the theme of housing and homelessness stood out as a high priority for respondents. This issue ranked highest as the most important problem facing Long beach, the most important social issue to respondents, and the issue raised most frequently in conversations. However, according to the disparity analysis, housing and homelessness features a relatively large issues-to-contributions disparity, indicating that respondents are not contributing their time, talent, and/or financial resources to this issue in the same proportion to which they say it is an issue of importance. With housing and homelessness being top of mind for respondents, LBCF and We Love Long Beach have an opportunity to work with the community to bolster efforts already underway and initiate new efforts to address this area of concern and improve Long Beach for all of its residents. LBCF can potentially prioritize this issue area in their funding and grant-making initiatives and can help create a platform for this issue upon which the community can problem-solve and work with local decision makers to address their community's needs.

Third, a notable proportion of differences among subgroups had to do with housing and homelessness. With regard to the social issues most important to respondents, female respondents, respondents 60 years old and up, and respondents living in Westside/Wrigley were most likely to select housing and homelessness, and male respondents, respondents 18 to 29 years old, and respondents living in East Long Beach were least likely to choose this issue. Respondents without a college degree were more likely to indicate that they devote their time, talent, and/or financial resources to addressing housing and homelessness issues than were college-educated respondents. Female respondents were more likely to name housing and homelessness as the one most important problem facing Long Beach. Respondents who live in East Long Beach less frequently said that housing and homelessness is the most important problem facing Long Beach than respondents who live in other geographic areas. In terms of



issues respondents raised in conversation, the youngest age group was least likely to bring up an issue related to housing and homelessness. Respondents in Belmont Shores/Belmont Heights, Bixby Knolls/Uptown, and Downtown were also most likely to raise housing and homelessness as an issue of concern in their conversation. Knowing which respondent subgroups were most focused on housing and homelessness can help LBCF and We Love Long Beach determine with whom in the community it should be connecting in order to address this issue. It is useful to reach out to those who are more inclined to care about and express investment in a particular issue; when people feel a personal connection to an issue area, they are more likely to be a willing advocate for addressing that issue.

Fourth, when comparing how respondents who identified a problem related to housing and homelessness, economic issues and poverty, and equity and social inclusion (the top three most important problems facing Long Beach) also answered the follow-up custom questions asking after best action(s) to take and best group(s) with whom to work to address the identified problems, we saw similarities across the board with the top actions and top groups selected. Of the respondents who named one of these three problems, large proportions of respondents said they could help address it by building relationships and collaborating, getting more involved in community, and raising awareness and educating others. Noteworthy percentages also identified nonprofit organizations, government, neighborhood groups or associations, and residents or people from the community as groups with whom they would like to work to help address their identified issue. There were also important differences between respondents who identified and respondents who did not identify a problem related to one of the three issues. Respondents who mentioned a problem related to housing and homelessness were almost twice as likely to say they could donate to help address this problem. With regard to economic issues and poverty, respondents who brought up a problem related to this theme were more likely to say they could support local businesses. And finally, respondents who named a problem related to equity and social inclusion were more likely to want to work with foundations.

The comparisons with regard to these three custom questions provide useful results. We are made aware of the finding that respondents consider housing and homeless, economic issues and poverty, and equity and social inclusion to be the top three problems facing Long Beach, and we also can see how respondents want to work to address these issues and with whom. Therefore, if LBCF and We Love Long Beach are looking to provide support for issues that came out of the *Around the Table* survey, not only does this analysis provide three top issue areas for such support, but it also indicates ways respondents are interested in being involved and groups with whom they would like to work. Having this additional information can be useful as the Foundation and We Love Long Beach consider ways to support actions and collaborations within the three identified issue areas.

Around the Table was an opportunity for residents of Long Beach to get together with old friends and new acquaintances to have conversations about the issues that they care about the most. In doing so, many people came together to share their experiences about life in Long Beach and how they would like to see it become an even better city that serves all of its residents. Conversations served as a catalyst for generating ideas and potential actions and created a space for participants to make personal connections so that they might find ways to ignite change with fellow residents.



APPENDICES

Appendix A: Around the Table Survey

AROUND the TABLE

PRESENTED BY

 LONG BEACH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION & 



Institute for Policy and
Civic Engagement

Welcome, and thank you for taking part in this survey!

The purpose of this research is to understand who participated in *Around the Table* and the nature and quality of the conversation event in which you participated on September 23, 2017, coordinated by the Long Beach Community Foundation. The University of Illinois at Chicago's Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement (IPCE) is administering the survey.

The survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. Completion of this survey is voluntary, you may skip any question, and there are no right or wrong answers. Your responses will be kept confidential. Collected data will be stored in locked offices in a locked suite, and data with direct identifiers will be password protected. Data will be kept throughout the research study period and will be deleted after five years. No personally identifiable data will be reported, and confidentiality will be protected to the fullest extent possible. IPCE and the Long Beach Community Foundation will have access to your e-mail address, but the Long Beach Community Foundation will not have access to your individual responses. Results of this study will be publicly available at www.ipce.uic.edu and www.aroundthetablelb.com.

The principal investigator of this research is IPCE Director Joseph Hoereth. If you have any questions about the survey, you may contact IPCE by phone at 312-355-0088 or by e-mail at jhoereth@uic.edu. You may also contact the Office for the Protection of Human Subjects (OPRS) by phone at 312-996-1711 or by e-mail at uicirb@uic.edu.

By responding to the survey, you acknowledge the following:

- You have read the above information
- You voluntarily agree to participate in this study
- You are at least 18 years of age

Please mark your answers like this: ● not like this: ✕ ☒ ☐

Begin here

1. Please provide the e-mail address used to register you for *Around the Table*. If you DID NOT register online, please provide your e-mail address below.

E-mail Address: _____

2. Which best describes your MOST IMPORTANT reason(s) for participating in *Around the Table*? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ To discuss and address important issues in my community
- ☐ To learn from and listen to others
- ☐ To meet and build relationships with new people
- ☐ To get more involved in my community
- ☐ To support the organizer of the conversation
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

If you participated in MORE THAN ONE *Around the Table* conversation, please refer to only one of your conversations for the next two questions.

3. Where did your conversation take place?

County: _____

City or Town: _____

Neighborhood: _____

4. The other people at my conversation were:

- ☐ Mostly people I did NOT know before the conversation
- ☐ Mostly people I knew before the conversation
- ☐ An equal mix of both

5. Did you raise an issue of concern regarding your community?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If yes, please provide examples:



6. Did your conversation(s) generate any specific solutions?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If yes, please provide examples:

7. How did you connect with others at your conversation(s)? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ I spoke with one or more attendees **I did not already know** before and/or after the conversation(s)
- ☐ I exchanged contact information with one or more attendees **I did not already know**
- ☐ I made specific plans to work with one or more attendees to address a new idea, issue, or project in the future
- ☐ None of the above

8. After participating in your conversation(s), to what extent do you better understand how you, personally, can help address the issues facing your community?

- ☐ Much better
- ☐ Somewhat better
- ☐ A little better
- ☐ No change

9. How likely are you to take specific actions or next steps regarding an issue or solution discussed?

- ☐ Very likely
- ☐ Somewhat likely
- ☐ Not too likely
- ☐ Not at all likely

If you answered NOT TOO LIKELY or NOT AT ALL LIKELY, please skip to Question 11.

10. Please select the actions or next steps you are likely to take regarding an issue or solution discussed. (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Build relationships and collaborate
- ☐ Get more involved in community
- ☐ Improve myself through personal development and learning
- ☐ Raise awareness and educate others
- ☐ Become more politically involved
- ☐ Donate
- ☐ Volunteer
- ☐ Provide support for my family
- ☐ Take action through my job
- ☐ Mentor or motivate others
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

11. How much impact do you think people like you can have in making your community a better place to live?

- ☐ A big impact
- ☐ A moderate impact
- ☐ A small impact
- ☐ No impact at all

12. In general, how attached do you feel to your local community?

- ☐ Very attached
- ☐ Somewhat attached
- ☐ Not very attached
- ☐ Not at all attached

13. Which of the following social issues are most important to you? (CHOOSE UP TO THREE)

- ☐ Arts and Culture
- ☐ Economic Issues and Poverty
- ☐ Education and Youth Development
- ☐ Environment and Parks
- ☐ Religion and Morals
- ☐ Equity and Social Inclusion
- ☐ Family
- ☐ Food Access
- ☐ Government
- ☐ Health
- ☐ Housing and Homelessness
- ☐ Immigration and Migration
- ☐ Public Safety and Judicial System
- ☐ The Media
- ☐ Technology
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

14. To which of the following social issues do you PRIMARILY contribute your time, talent (knowledge or skills), and/or financial resources?
(CHOOSE UP TO THREE)

- ☐ Arts and Culture
- ☐ Economic Issues and Poverty
- ☐ Education and Youth Development
- ☐ Environment and Parks
- ☐ Religion and Morals
- ☐ Equity and Social Inclusion
- ☐ Family
- ☐ Food Access
- ☐ Government
- ☐ Health
- ☐ Housing and Homelessness
- ☐ Immigration and Migration
- ☐ Public Safety and Judicial System
- ☐ The Media
- ☐ Technology
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

15. How involved are you in community and neighborhood activities where you live?

- ☐ Very involved
- ☐ Somewhat involved
- ☐ Not too involved
- ☐ Not at all involved

16. Since September 2016, have you:
(Select all that apply)

- ☐ Worked with people in your neighborhood to fix or improve something?
- ☐ Donated money, assets, or property with a combined value of more than \$25 to charitable or religious organizations?
- ☐ Done any volunteer activities through or for an organization?
- ☐ Attended any public meetings in which there was discussion of community affairs?
- ☐ None of the above

17. How often do you vote in local elections, such as for mayor or a school board? Across the nation, these elections have about 20% voter turnout.

- ☐ Always vote
- ☐ Sometimes vote
- ☐ Rarely vote
- ☐ Never vote
- ☐ Prefer not to answer / Not eligible to vote

18. Where do you like to connect with others?
(Select all that apply)

- ☐ Parks
- ☐ Library
- ☐ Community rec center
- ☐ Schools
- ☐ Public squares
- ☐ Religious institution, such as a church
- ☐ Community garden
- ☐ Shopping centers
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

19. How often, if ever, do you get information about YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY from each of the following sources, whether online or offline?

	Every day	Several times a week	Several times a month	Less often	Never
Local newspaper	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Local television news	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Local radio	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A blog about your local community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A person or organization you follow on a social networking site	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A newsletter or e-mail listserv about your local community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Word of mouth from friends, family, co-workers and neighbors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

To help us better understand who participated in Around the Table, please respond to the following demographic questions. Your responses are confidential.

20. Where do you currently live?

County: _____

City or Town: _____

Neighborhood: _____

ZIP code: _____

21. About how many years have you lived in your local community?

Number of Years: _____

22. Do you own or rent your primary residence?

- ☐ Own
- ☐ Rent
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

23. What is your current gender identity?

(Select all that apply)

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ A gender identity not listed here (please specify): _____

24. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- ☐ Less than high school
- ☐ High school diploma or GED
- ☐ Some college
- ☐ Associate/Vocational degree
- ☐ Bachelor's degree
- ☐ Graduate degree

25. In what year were you born? Year: _____

26. How would you identify your race and/or ethnicity? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ American Indian/Alaska Native
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Black or African American
- ☐ Hispanic or Latino/a
- ☐ Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander
- ☐ White
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

27. What is your relationship to the Long Beach Community Foundation? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Funder
- ☐ Grantee (my organization has received funds from them)
- ☐ I have volunteered with them
- ☐ I work there
- ☐ I've attended one of their events
- ☐ I had not heard of the Long Beach Community Foundation before *Around the Table*.
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

28. What is the one most important problem facing Long Beach?

29. In which of the following ways can you best help to address this problem? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Build relationships and collaborate with others
- ☐ Get more involved in community
- ☐ Improve myself through personal development and learning
- ☐ Raise awareness and educate others
- ☐ Become more politically involved
- ☐ Conscious consumption or 'boycotting'
- ☐ Support local businesses
- ☐ Donate
- ☐ Volunteer
- ☐ Take action through my job
- ☐ Mentor or motivate others
- ☐ I don't know
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

30. With whom would you like to work to address this problem? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Foundations (grant-making organizations)
- ☐ Nonprofit organizations
- ☐ School(s) / Educational Institutions
- ☐ Government
- ☐ Neighborhood groups or associations
- ☐ Religious Institutions (such as churches, synagogues, or mosques)
- ☐ Residents / people from the community
- ☐ I don't know
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

31. We Love Long Beach connects neighbors with each other around shared interests.

So that We Love Long Beach may better understand the interests in your community, please select the group(s) you would be interested in joining in your neighborhood. (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Arts/Crafts Group
- ☐ Block Parties/Gatherings
- ☐ Book Group
- ☐ Cooking Group
- ☐ Gardening/Crop Share
- ☐ Kids Play Group
- ☐ Movie Nights
- ☐ Pets Group
- ☐ Sports Group
- ☐ Walking/Running Group
- ☐ Yoga Group
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

Around the Table 2017

Summary of Results for All Respondents

Following Around the Table, 274 participants responded to the survey by clicking on an e-mail link, 274 responded by clicking on the web link, and 116 responded by submitting a print survey.

In total, 664 Around the Table participants fully or partially responded to the survey. This document provides a summary of responses by question. The 'n' provided in each question is the number of respondents for that question.

Section 1: Who Participated?

Respondent Demographics

Figure B.1: What is your current gender identity?

% of respondents (n = 622)

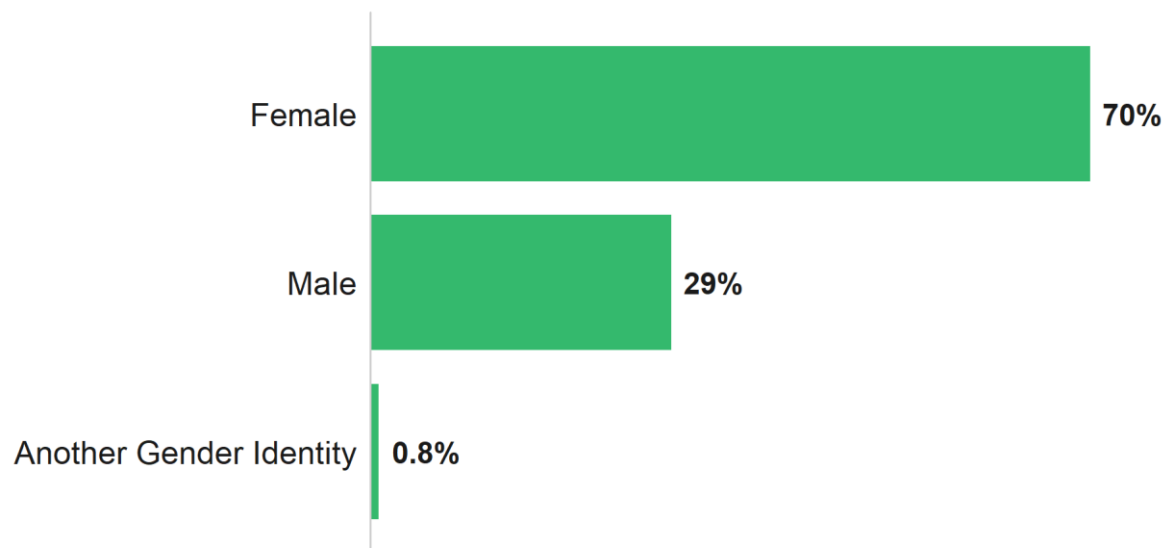


Figure B.2: Age of Respondents by Decade

% of respondents (n = 589)

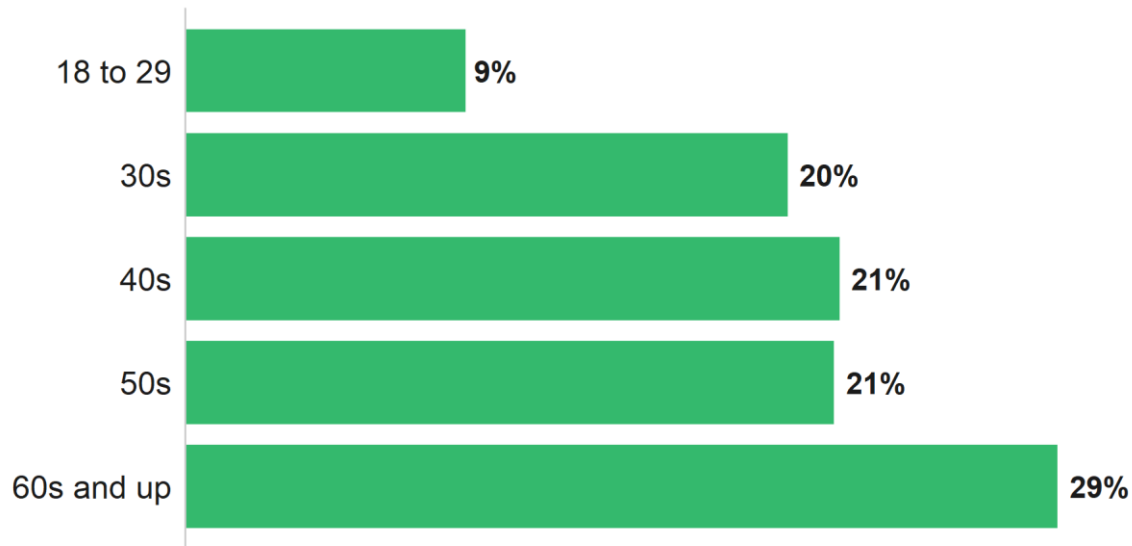


Figure B.3: Age of Respondents by Decade, Comparison

% of Long Beach RESPONDENTS (n = 512) compared to Long Beach RESIDENTS

SOURCE: U.S. Census, ACS 2011 - 2015

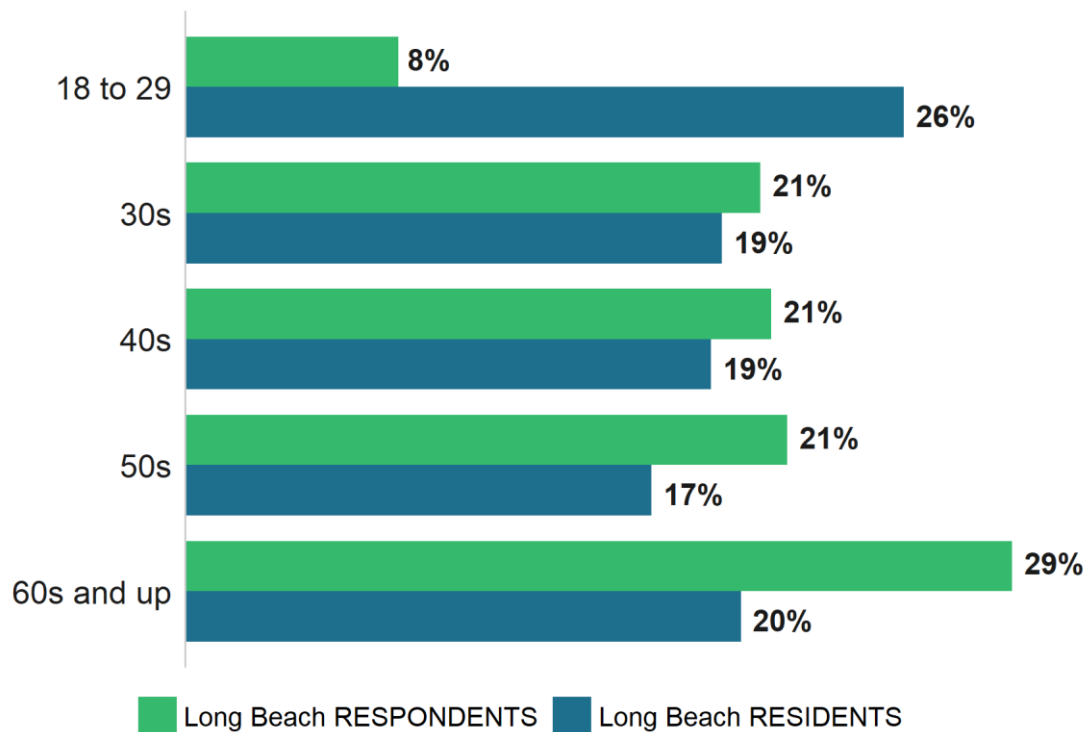


Figure B.4: What is the highest level of education you have completed?

% of respondents (n = 621)

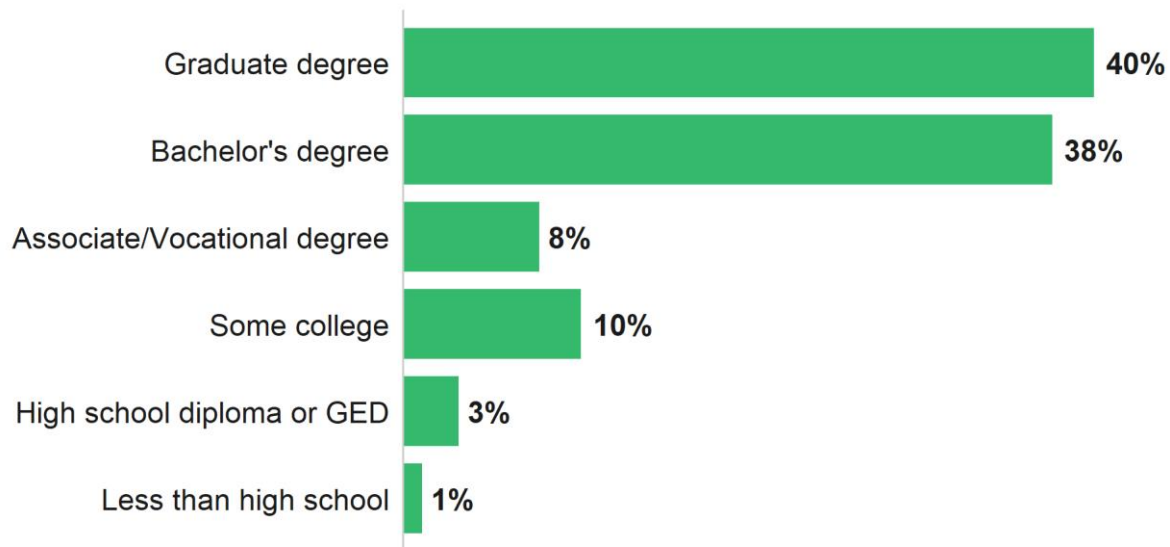


Figure B.5: Highest Level of Education, Comparison

% of Long Beach **RESPONDENTS** ages 25+ (n = 494) compared to Long Beach **RESIDENTS** ages 25+
SOURCE: U.S. Census, ACS 2011 - 2015

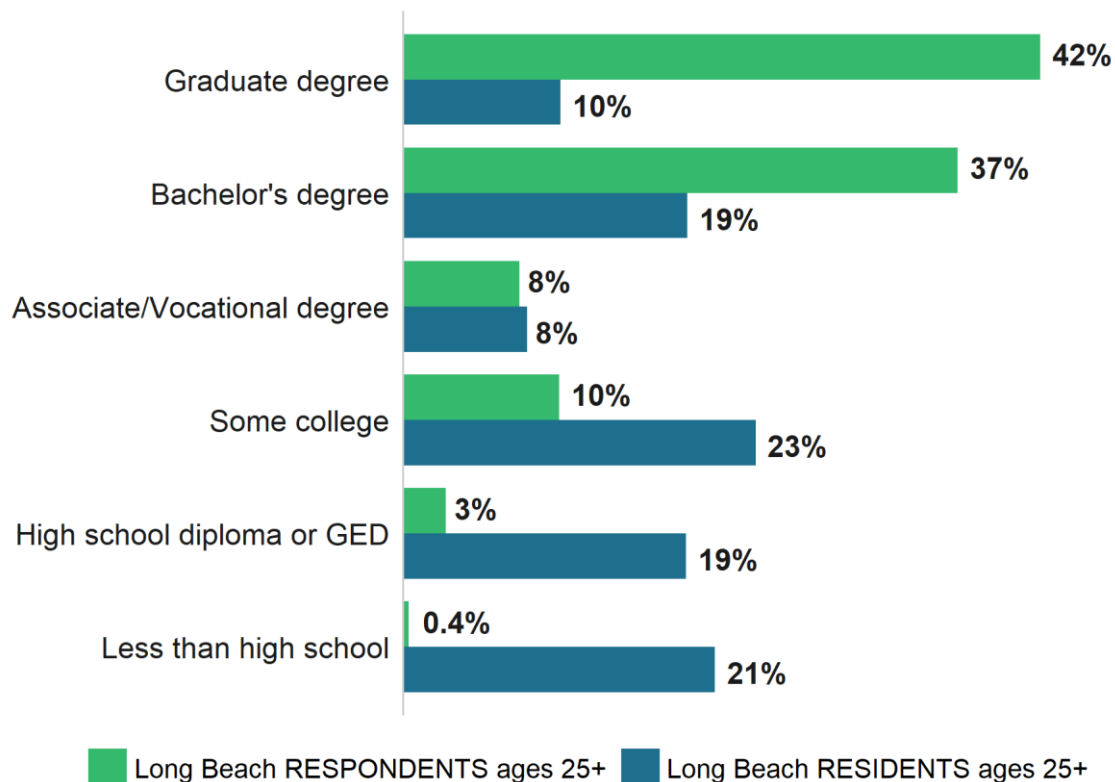


Figure B.6: How would you identify your race and/or ethnicity?

% of respondents (n = 615)

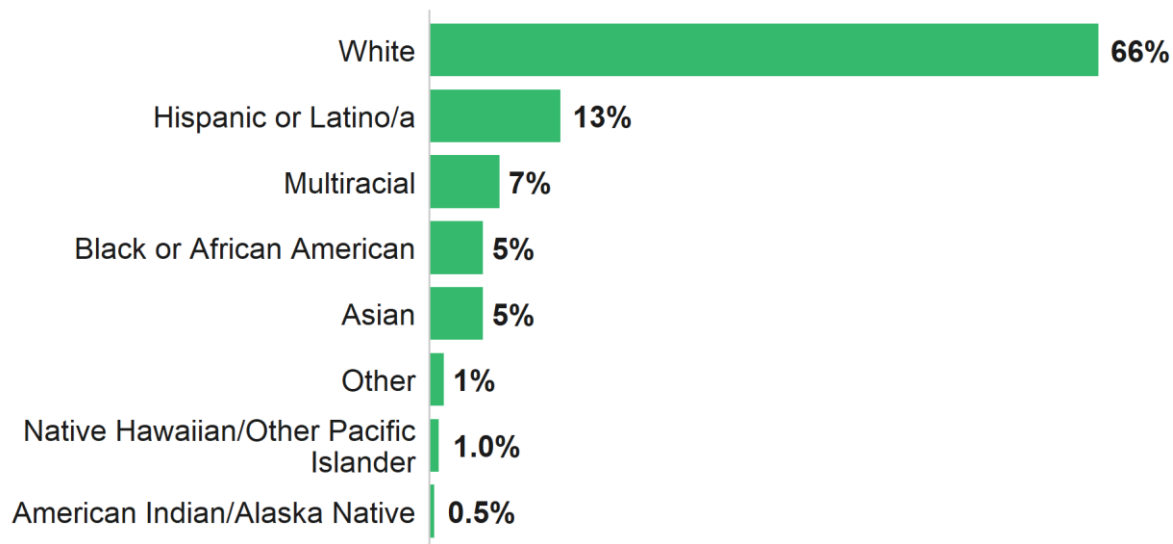


Figure B.7: Racial and/or Ethnic Identity, Comparison

% of Long Beach RESPONDENTS (n = 527) compared to Long Beach RESIDENTS

SOURCE: U.S. Census, ACS 2011 - 2015, Voting Age Population by Citizenship and Race (CVAP)

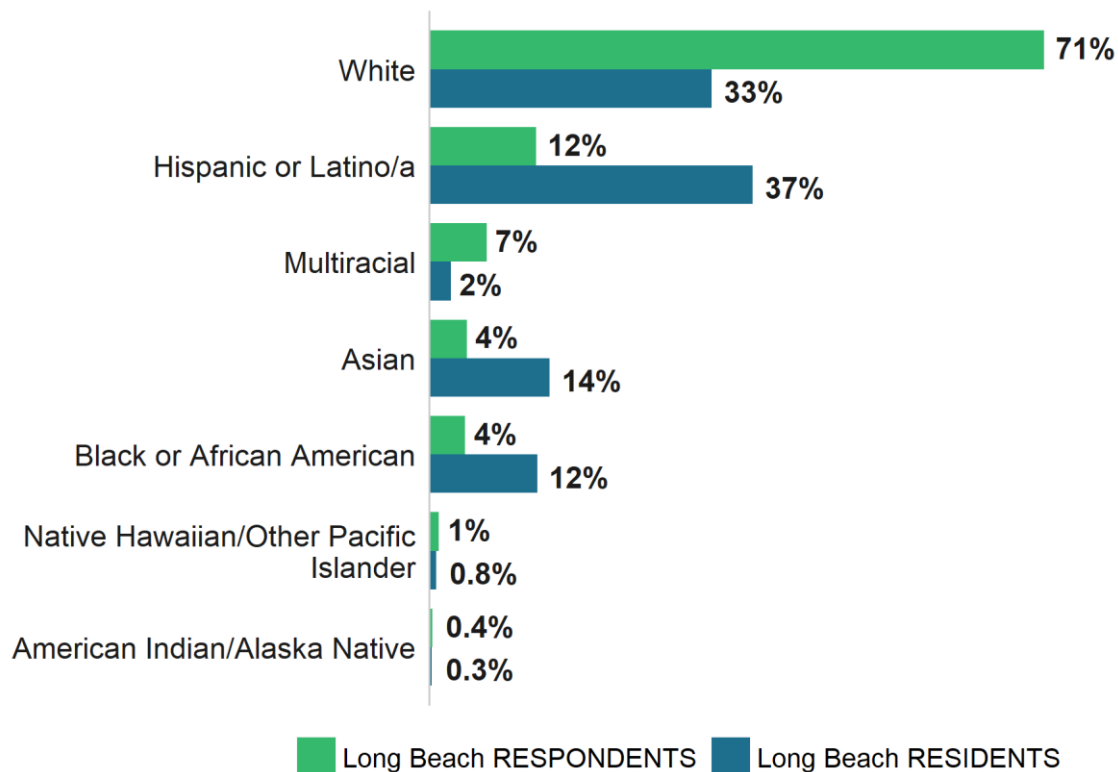


Figure B.8: Where do you currently live? Top counties:

% of respondents (n = 617)

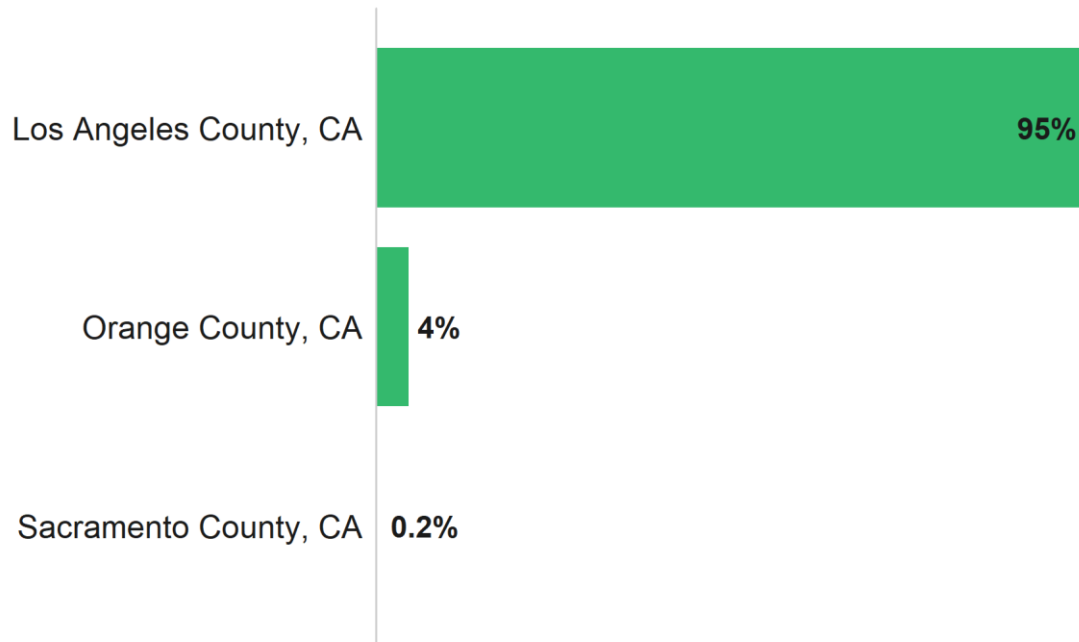


Figure B.9: Where do you currently live? Top cities:

% of respondents (n = 615)

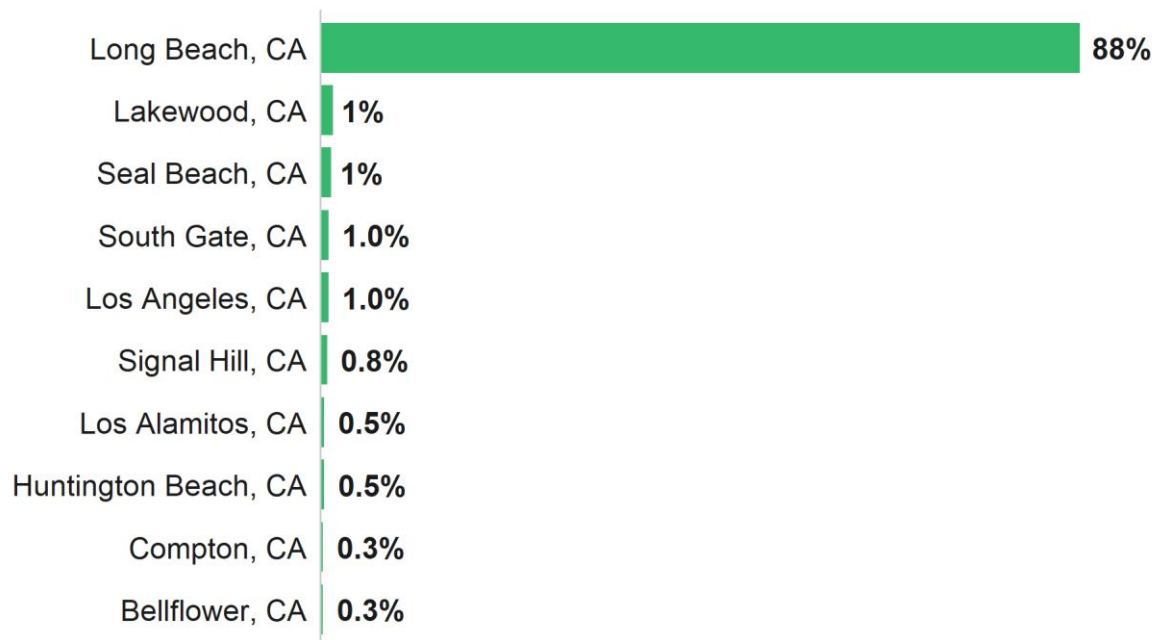
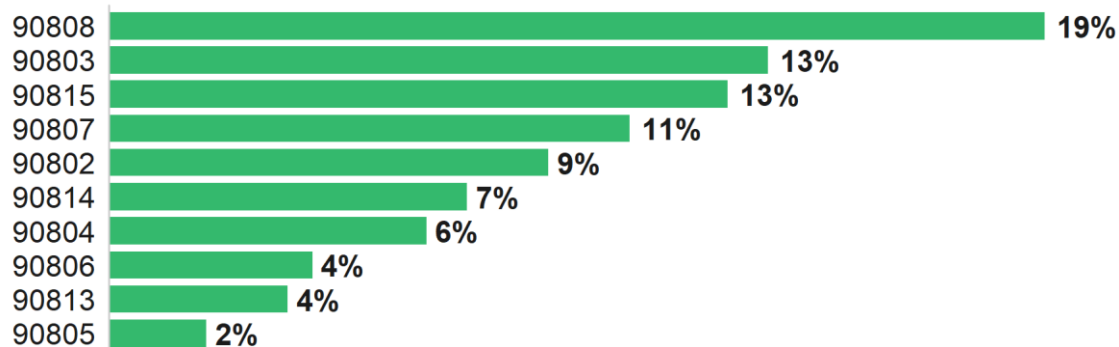


Figure B.10: Where do you currently live? Top Zip Codes:

% of respondents (n = 606)



Where Respondents LIVE

of Respondents by Zip Code

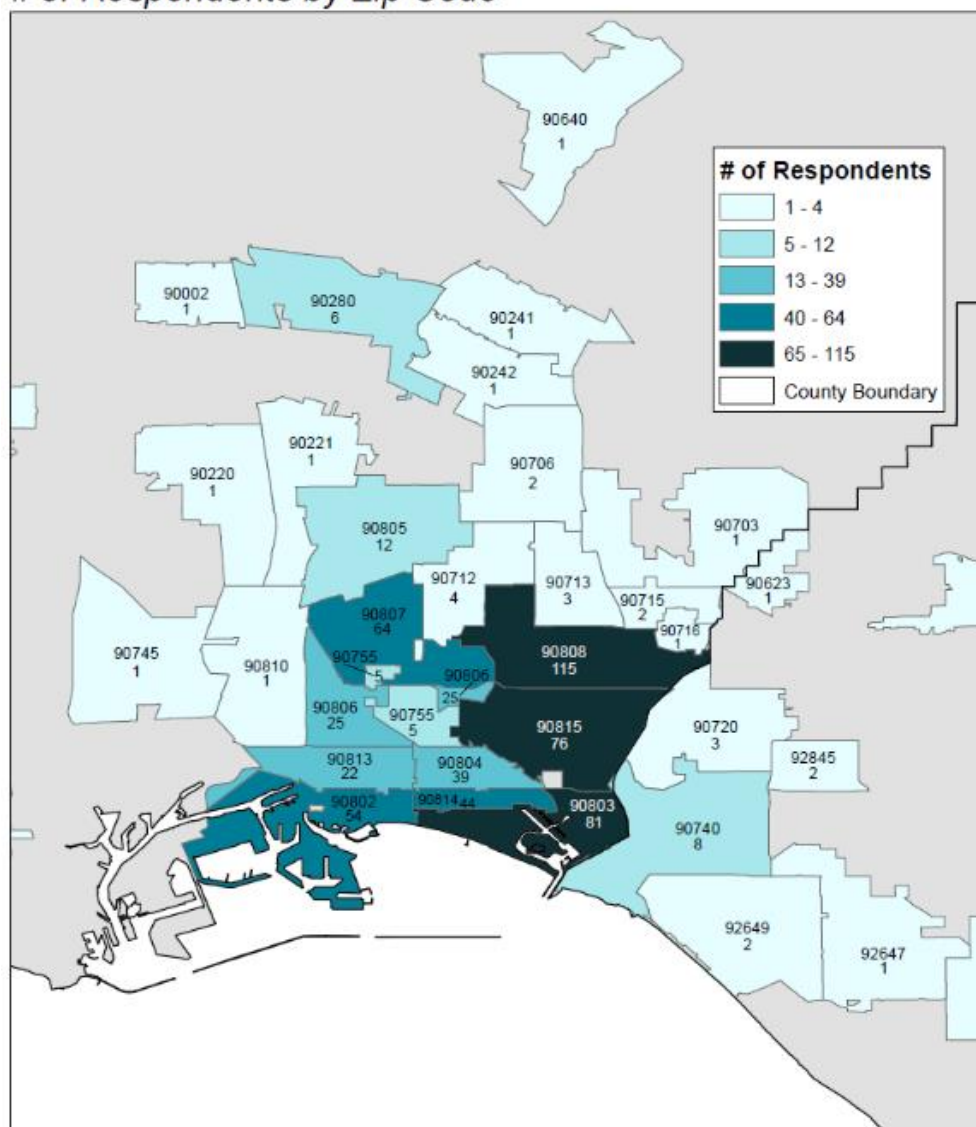
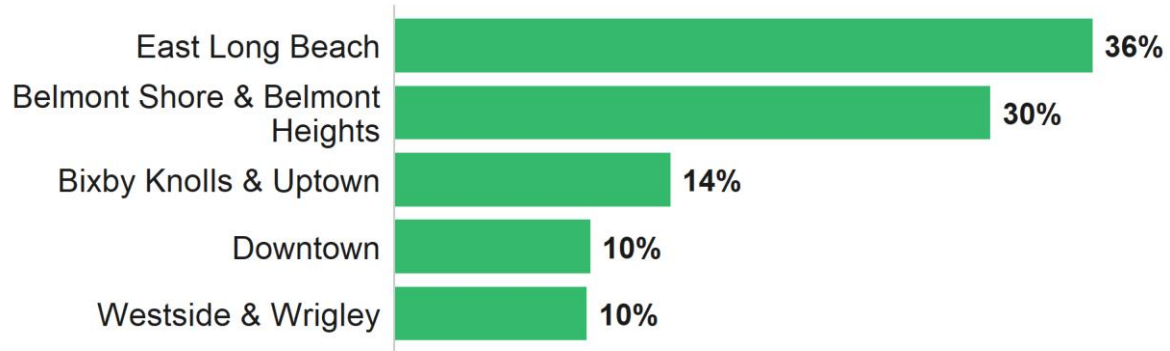


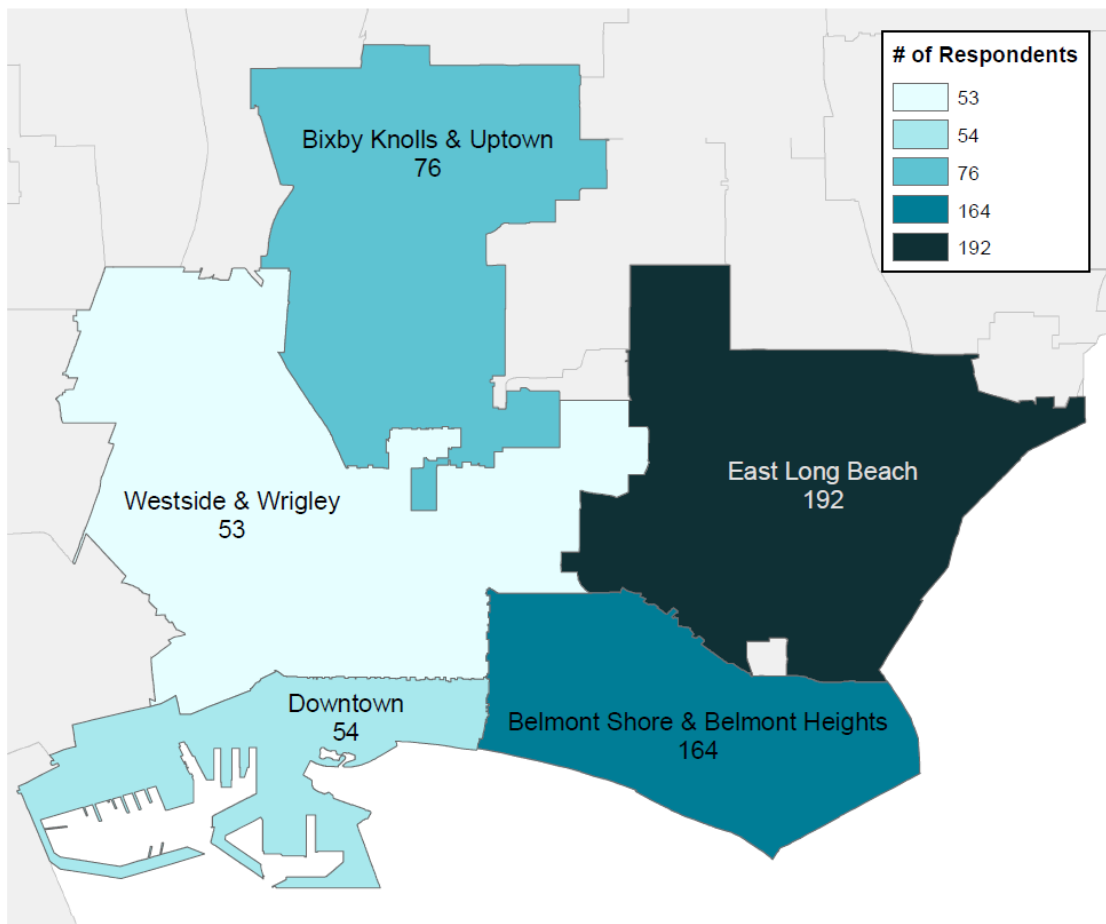
Figure B.11: Where do you currently live? Regions:

% of respondents (n = 539)



Where Respondents LIVE

of Respondents by Neighborhood



Belmont Shore and Belmont Heights: 90803, 90804, 90814

Bixby Knolls and Uptown: 90805, 90807

Downtown: 90802

East Long Beach: 90808, 90815, 90840

Westside and Wrigley: 90755, 90806, 90810, 90813

Figure B.12: About how many years have you lived in your local community?

% of respondents (n = 620) compared to National Rate

SOURCE: Pew Research Center, December, 2008, 'American Mobility. Who Moves? Who Stays Put? Where's Home?'

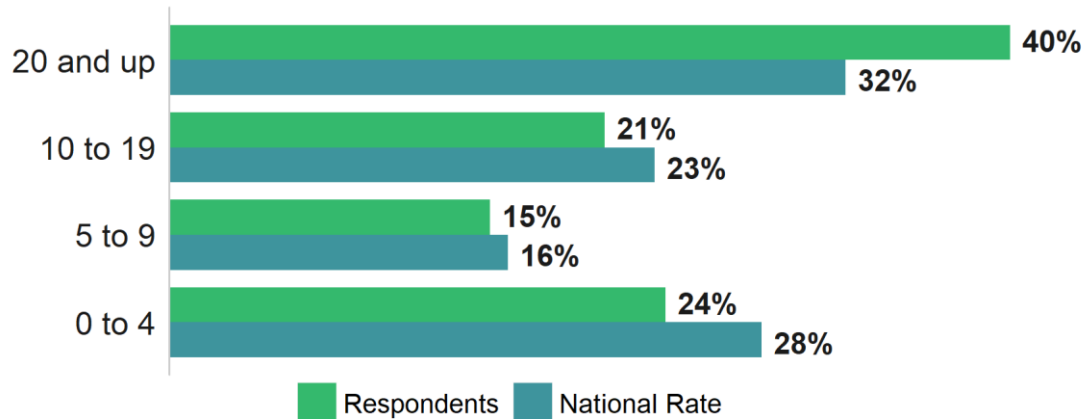


Figure B.13: Do you own or rent your primary residence?

% of respondents (n = 623)

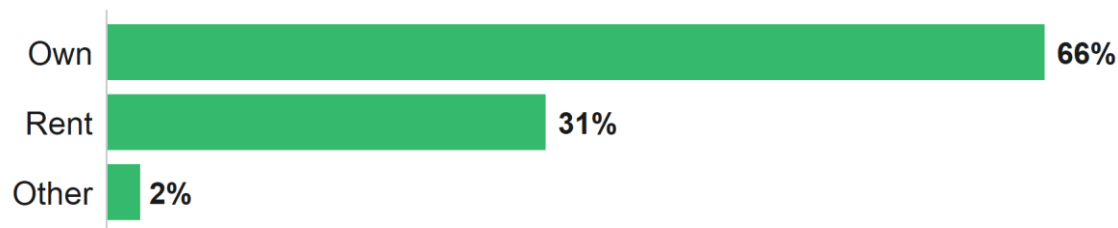


Figure B.14: Homeownership Comparison

% of Long Beach RESPONDENTS (n = 532) compared to Long Beach RESIDENTS

SOURCE: U.S. Census, ACS 2011 - 2015

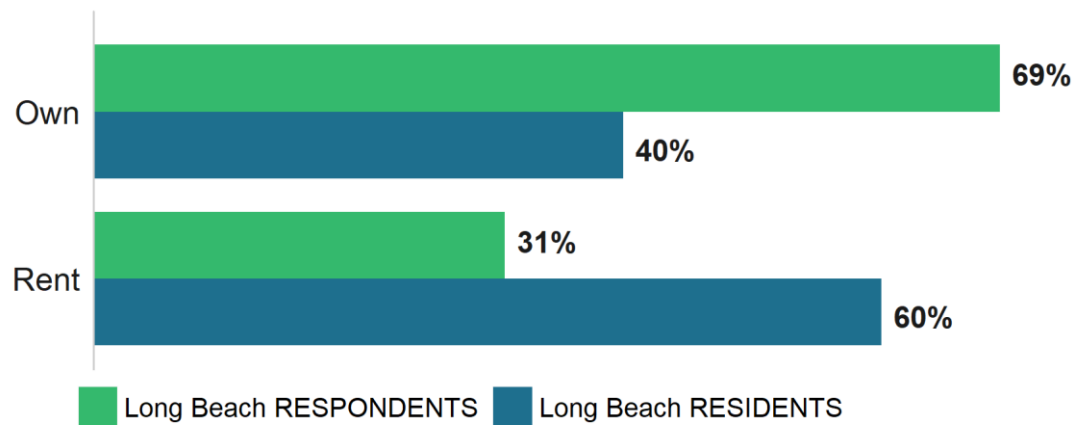
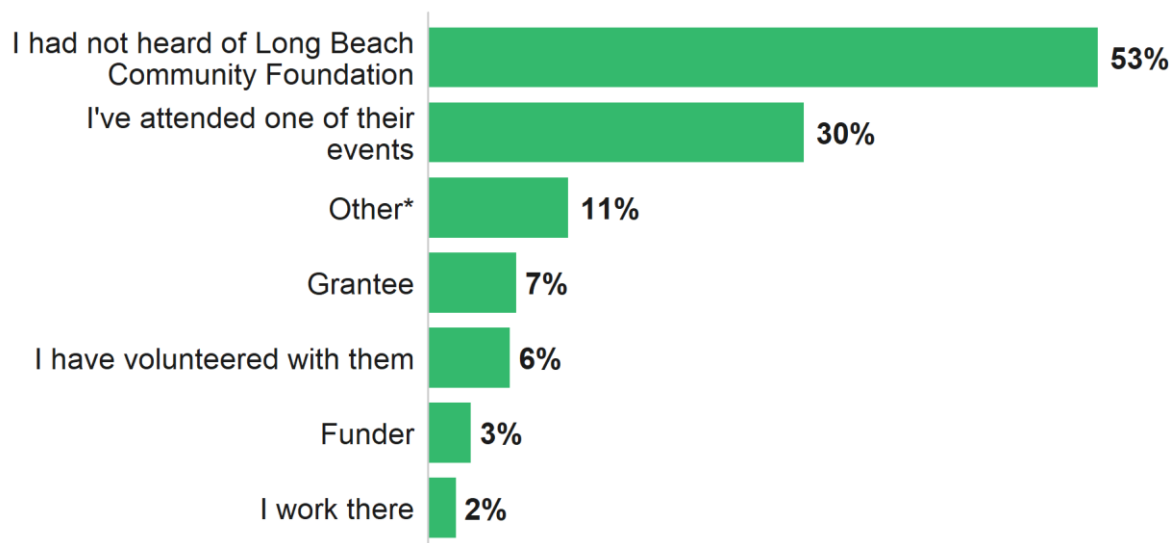


Figure B.15: What is your relationship to the Long Beach Community Foundation?

% of respondents (n = 589 // select all that apply)



*Other' response: Heard of them (2.5%).

Civic Attitudes and Activities

Figure B.16: How much impact do you think people like you can have in making your community a better place to live?

% of respondents (n = 629) compared to National Rate

SOURCE: Pew Research Center, November, 2016, 'Civic Engagement Strongly Tied to Local News Habits'

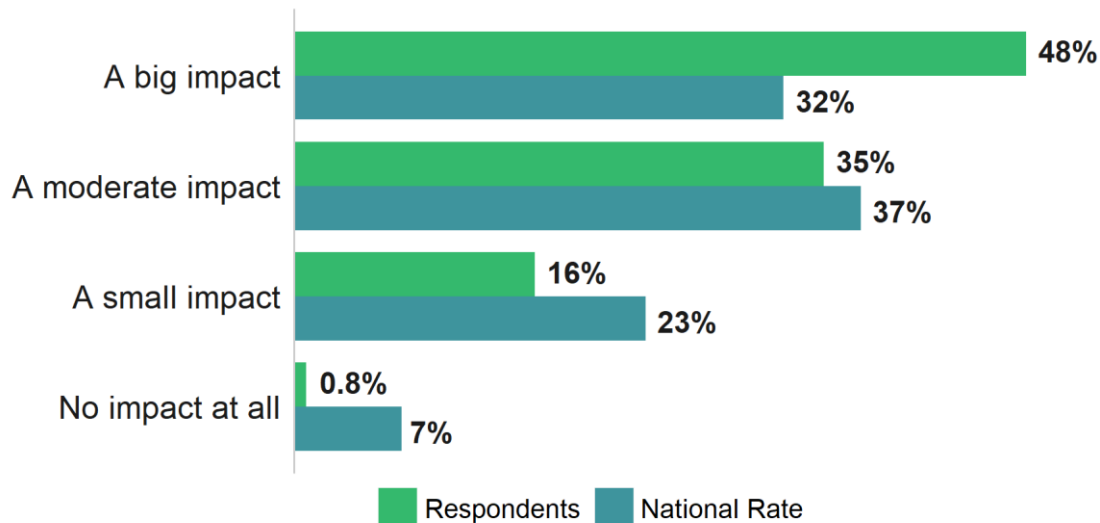


Figure B.17: In general, how attached do you feel to your local community?

% of respondents (n = 633) compared to National Rate

SOURCE: Pew Research Center, November, 2016, 'Civic Engagement Strongly Tied to Local News Habits'

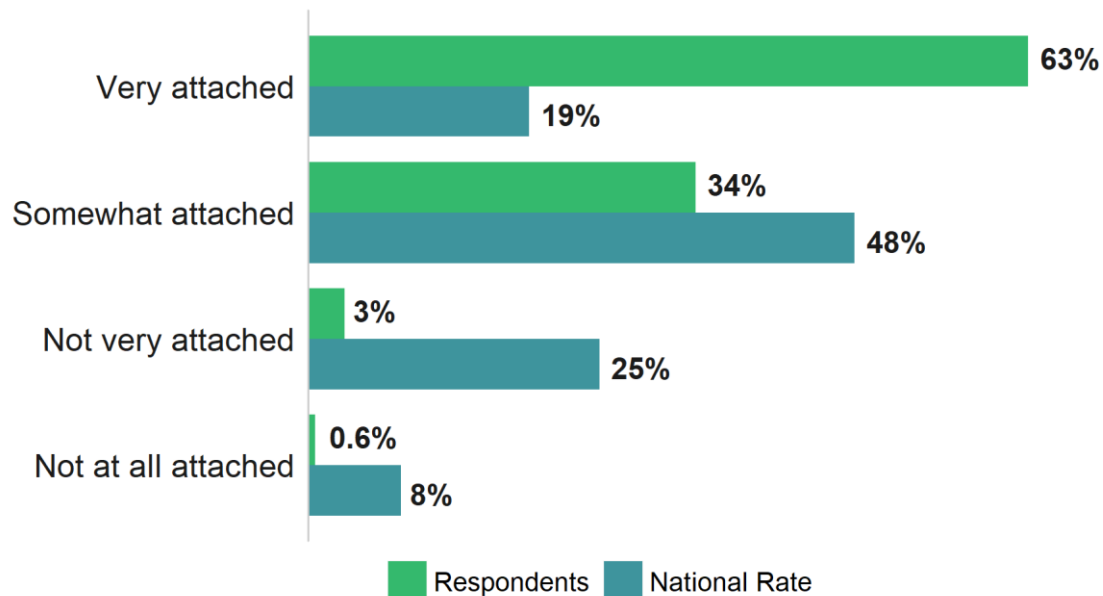
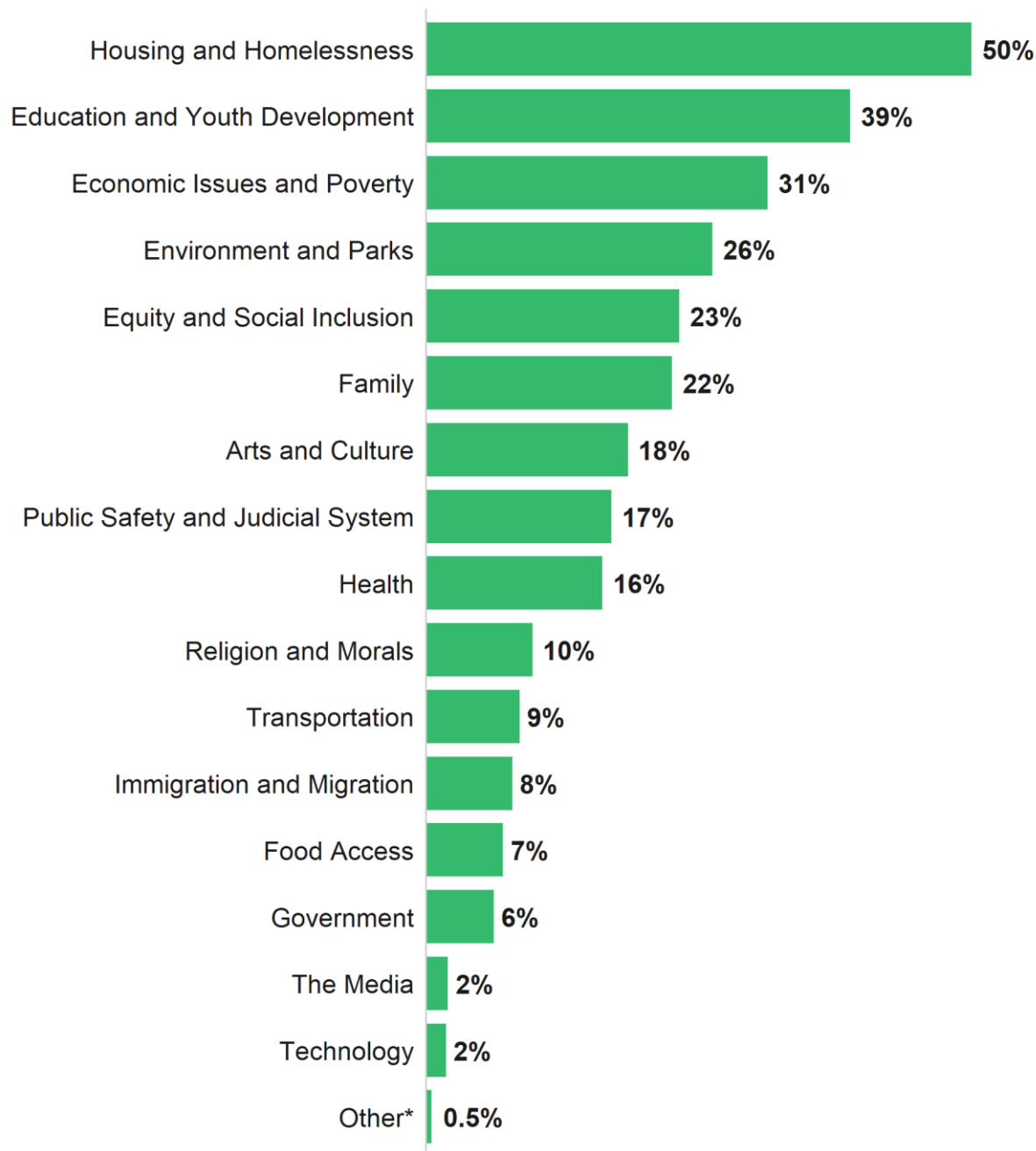


Figure B.18: Which of the following social issues are most important to you?

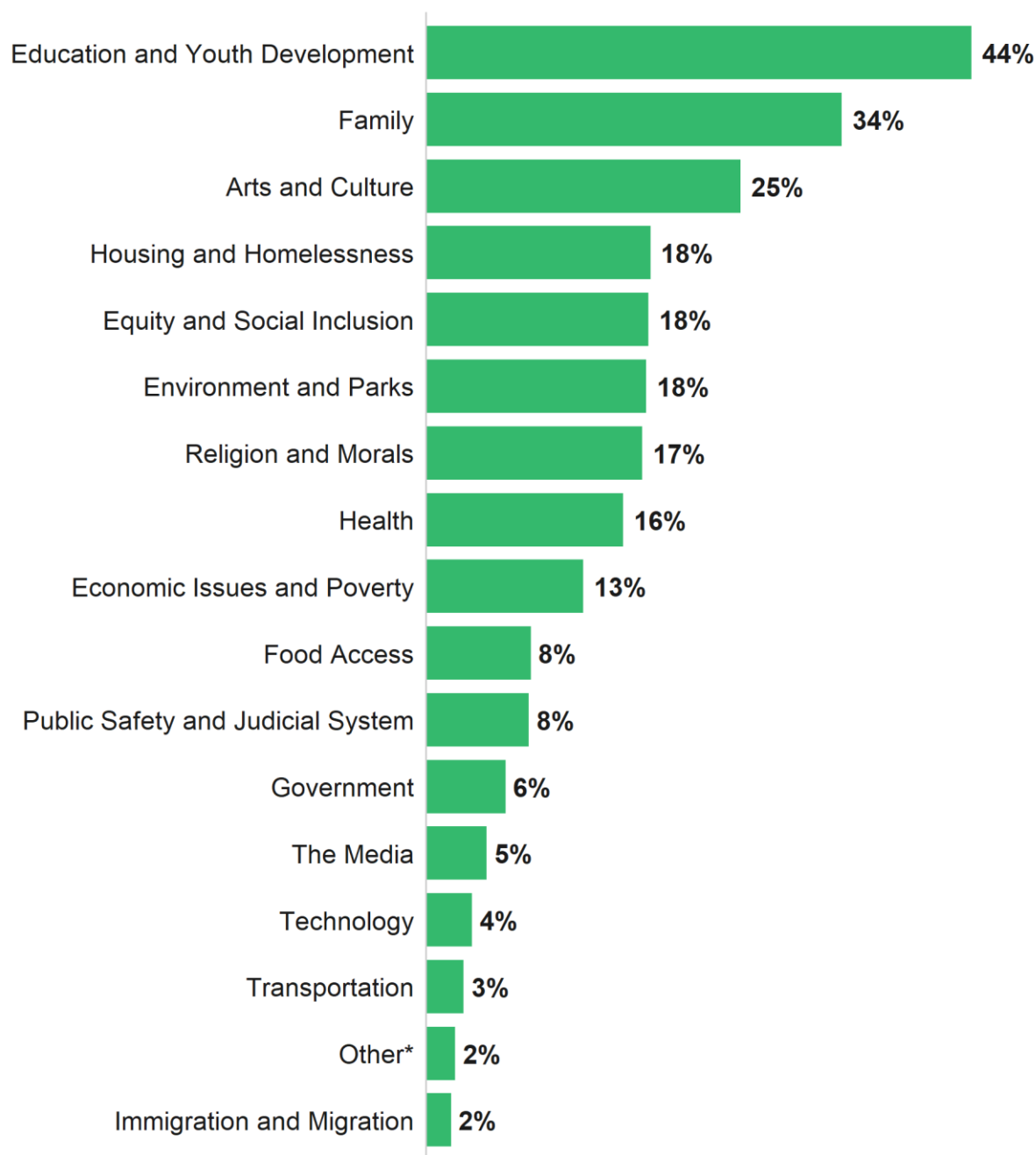
% of respondents (n = 598 // choose up to three)



*Other' responses: Community Development (0.2%), and Community Engagement (0.2%).

Figure B.19: To which social issues do you PRIMARILY contribute your time, talent, and/or financial resources?

% of respondents (n = 591 // choose up to three)



*The top 3 'other' responses are: Community Engagement (1.2%), Community Development (1%), and Philanthropy (0.3%).

Figure B.20: How involved are you in community and neighborhood activities where you live?

% of respondents (n = 632) compared to National Rate

SOURCE: Pew Research Center, December, 2008, 'American Mobility. Who Moves? Who Stays Put? Where's Home?'

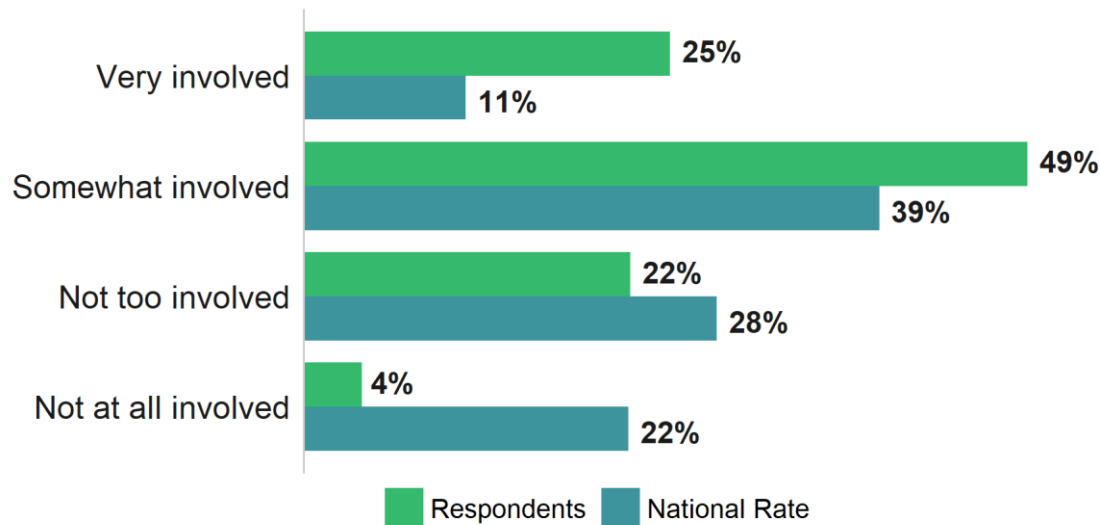


Figure B.21: Engagement Activities in the Past Year, Comparison

% of respondents (n = 625) compared to National Rate

SOURCE: U.S. Census, Current Population Survey, September 2015: Volunteer Supplement

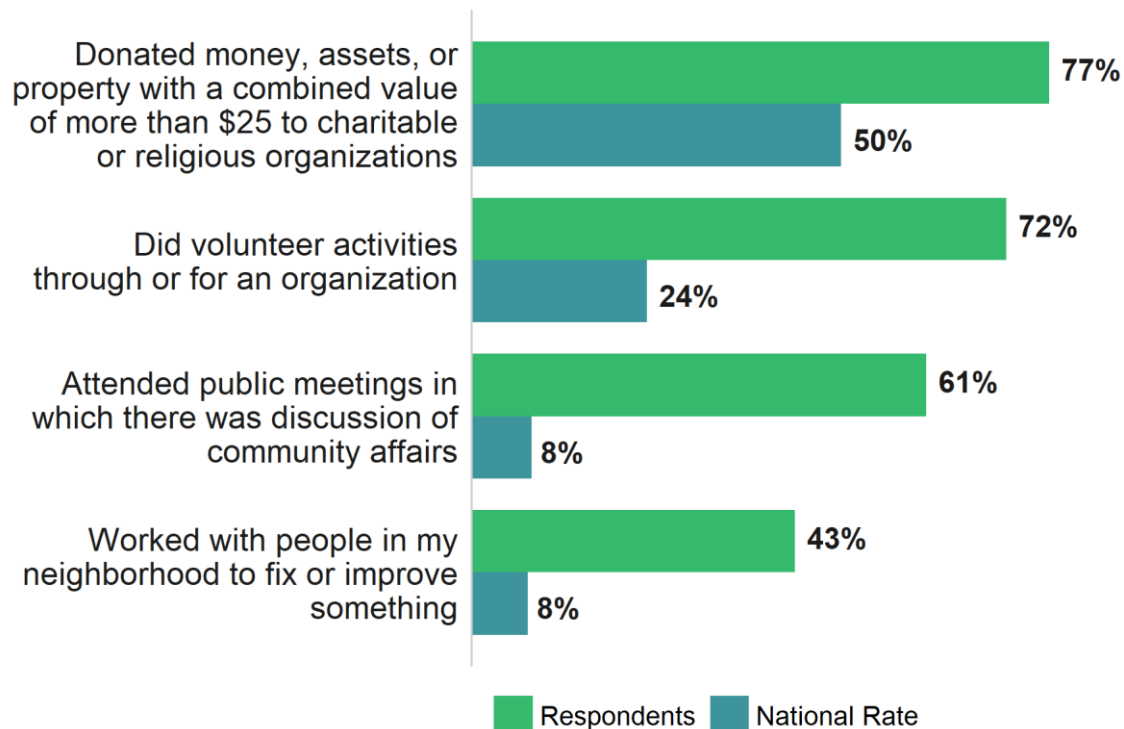


Figure B.22: How often do you vote in local elections, such as for mayor or a school board?

% of respondents (n = 627)

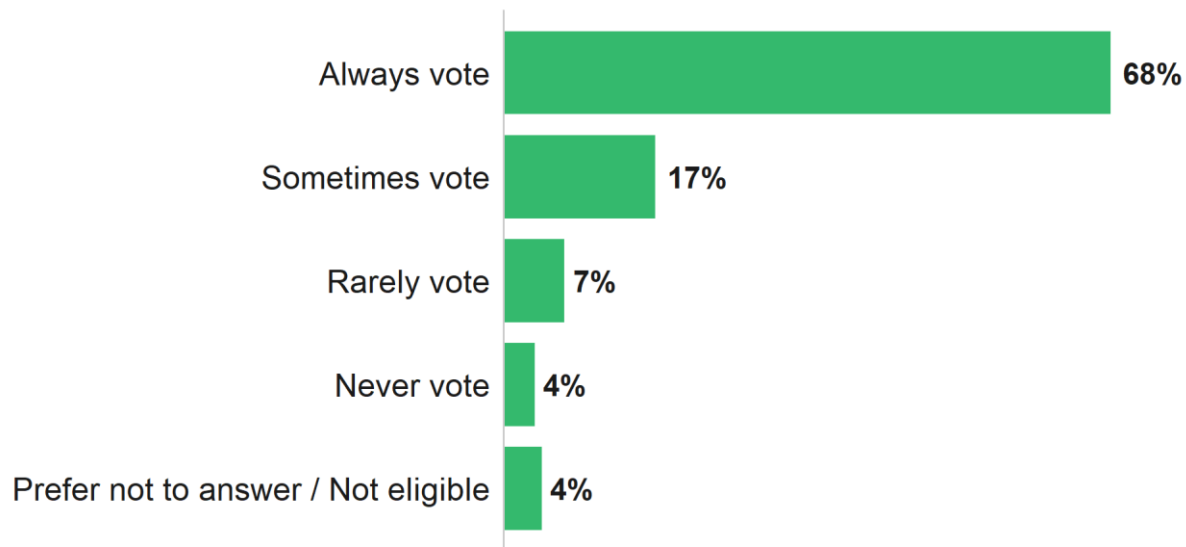
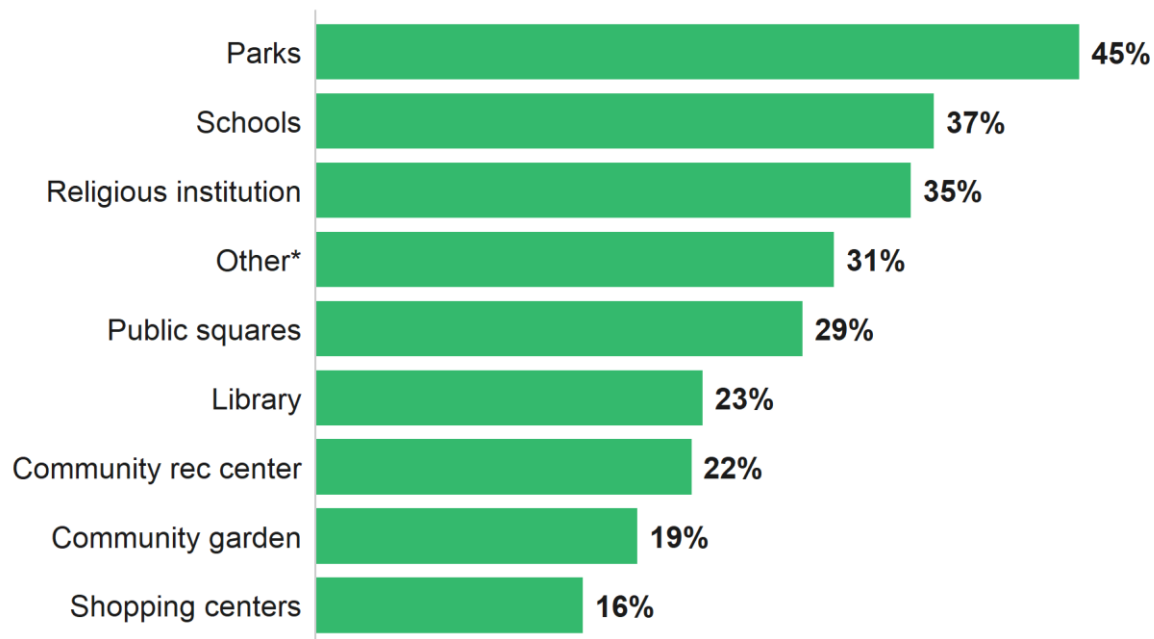


Figure B.23: Where do you like to connect with others?

% of respondents (n = 594 // select all that apply)



*The top 3 'other' responses are: Community events / meetings (10.3%), Restaurants (5.1%), and Community service activities (4.7%).

Figures B.24 through B.30 present results on how often respondents get information about their local community from each of the following sources, whether online or offline.

SOURCE of comparison data: Pew Research Center, November, 2016, 'Civic Engagement Strongly Tied to Local News Habits'

Figure B.24: Local Newspaper

% of respondents (n = 514) compared to National Rate

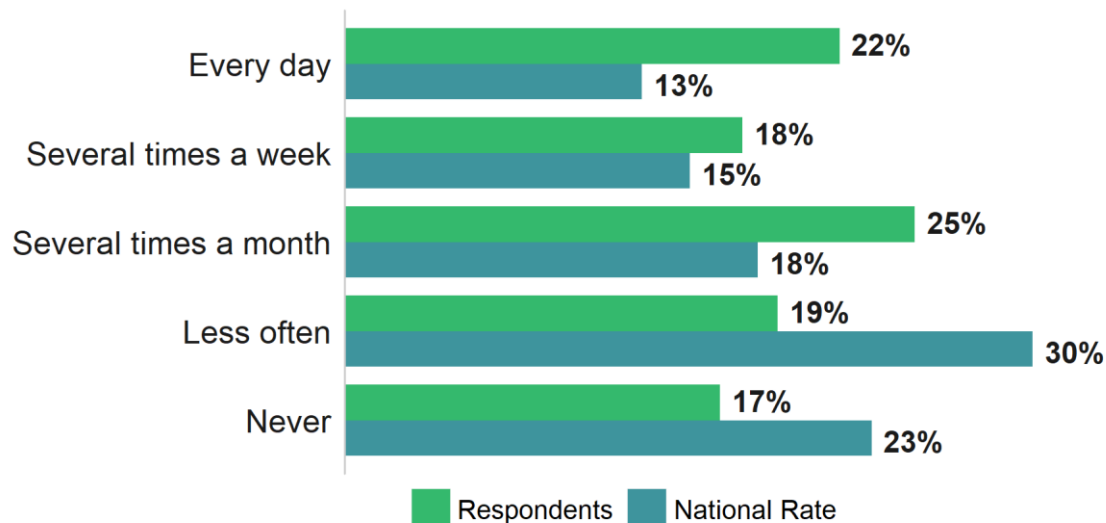


Figure B.25: Local television news

% of respondents (n = 481) compared to National Rate

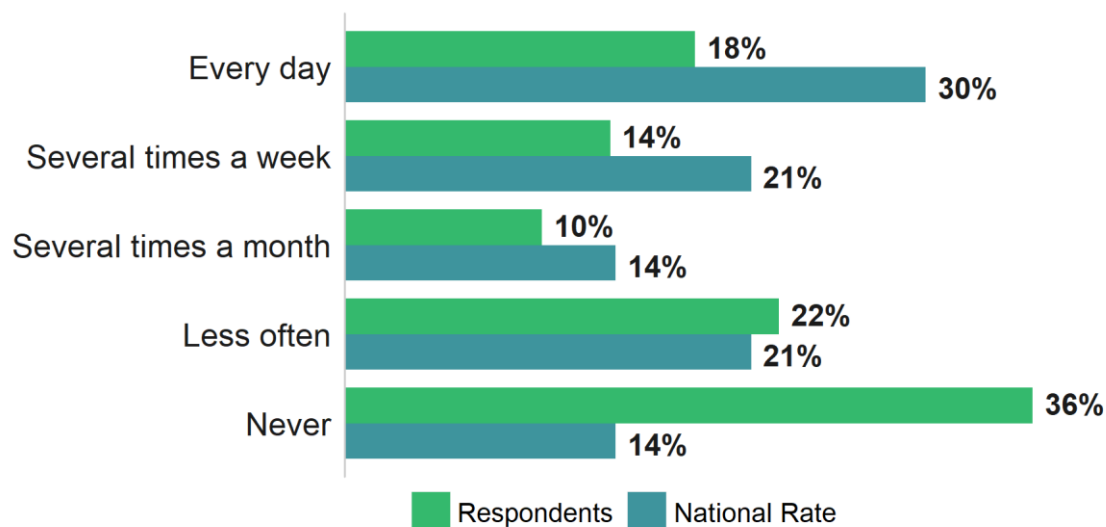


Figure B.26: Local radio

% of respondents (n = 453) compared to National Rate

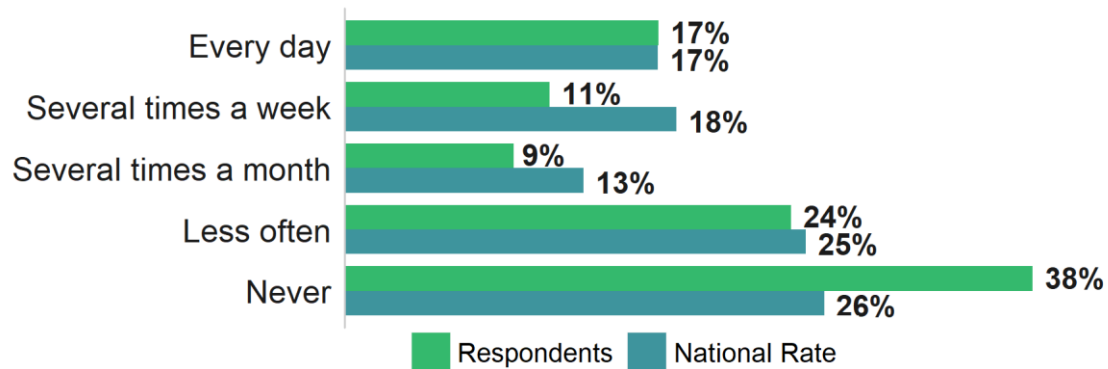


Figure B.27: A blog about your local community

% of respondents (n = 468) compared to National Rate

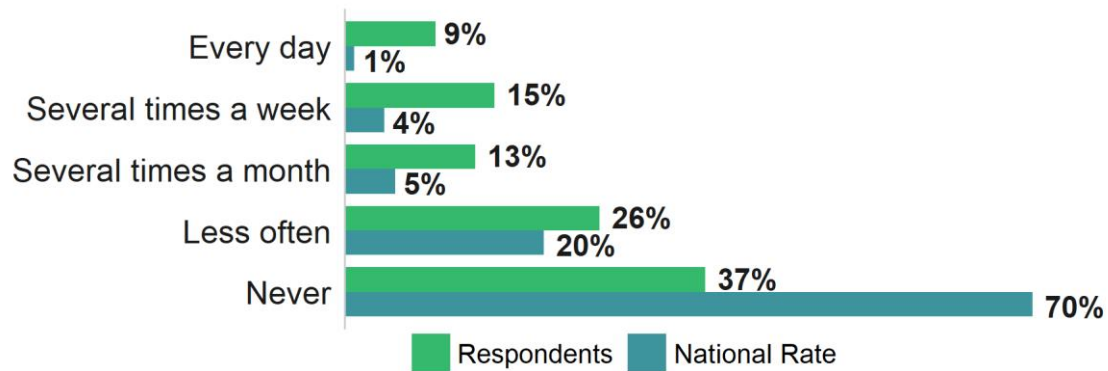


Figure B.28: A person or organization you follow on a social networking site

% of respondents (n = 520) compared to National Rate

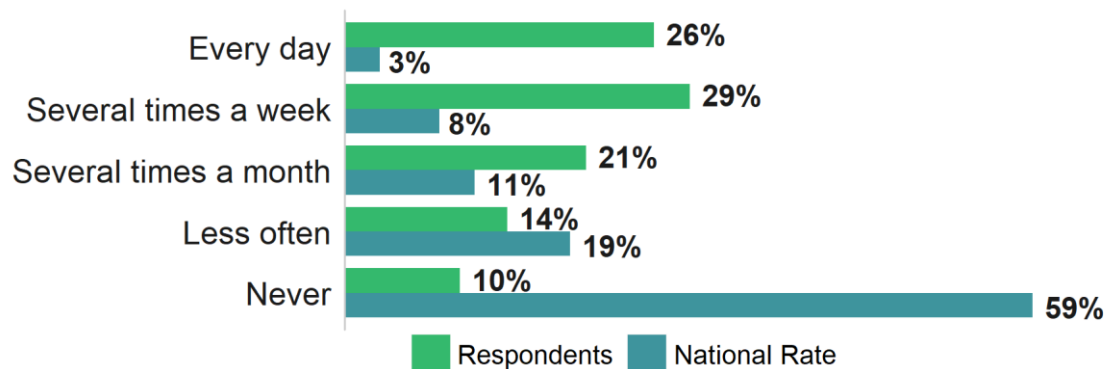


Figure B.29: A newsletter or e-mail listserv about your local community

% of respondents (n = 506) compared to National Rate

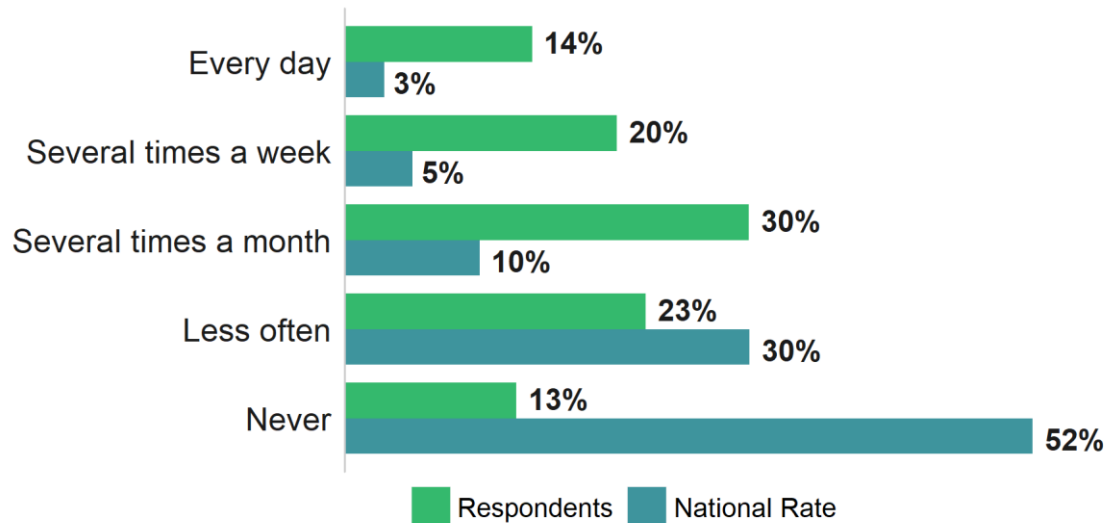
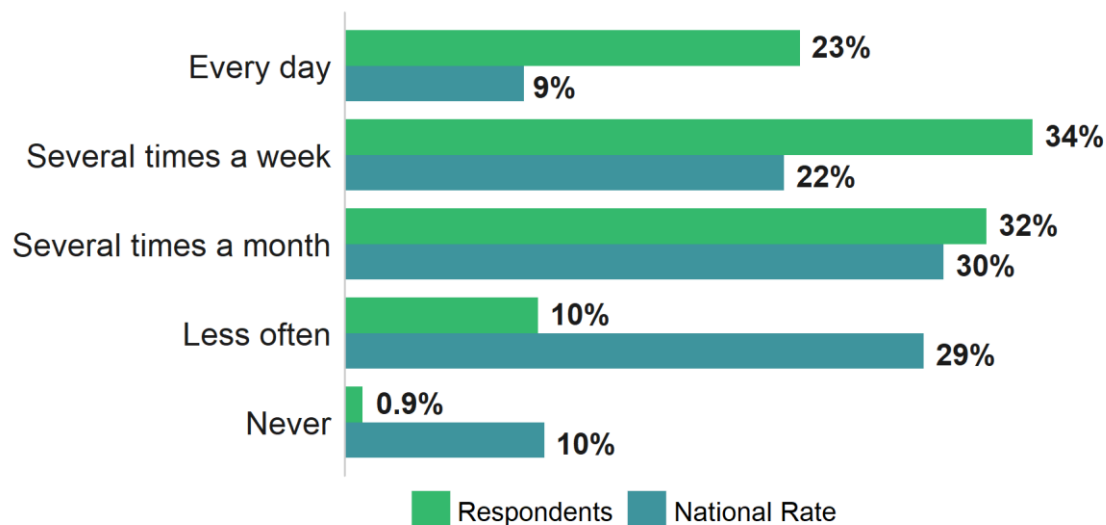


Figure B.30: Word of mouth from friends, family, co-workers and neighbors

% of respondents (n = 557) compared to National Rate



Section 2: Conversation Dynamics, Topics, and Impact

Conversation Dynamics and Topics

Figure B.31: Which best describes your MOST IMPORTANT reason(s) for participating in Around the Table?

% of respondents (n = 658 // select all that apply)

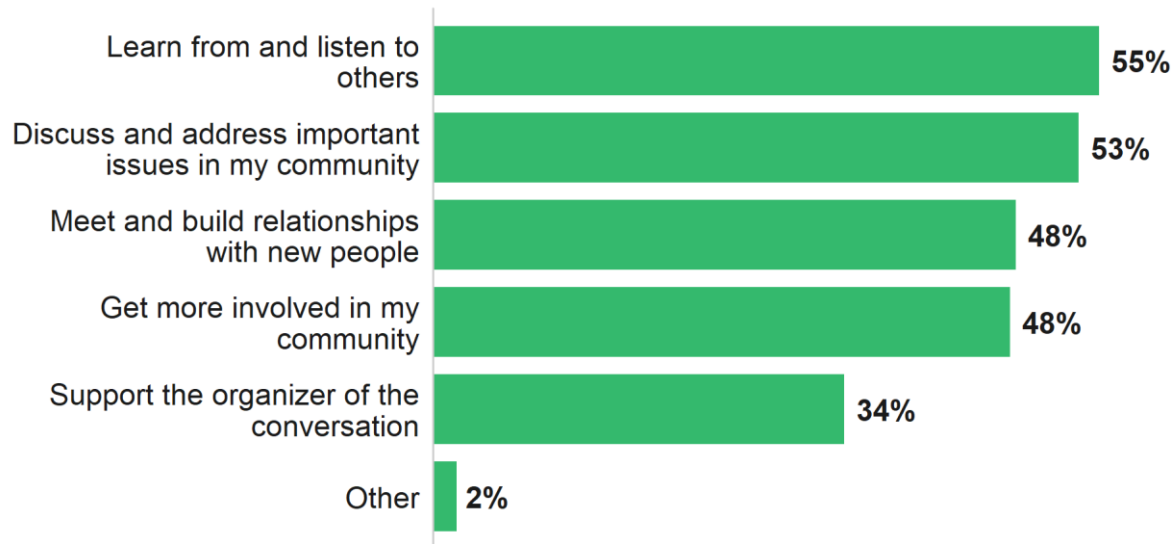


Figure B.32: 'The other people at my conversation were ...'

% of respondents (n = 651)

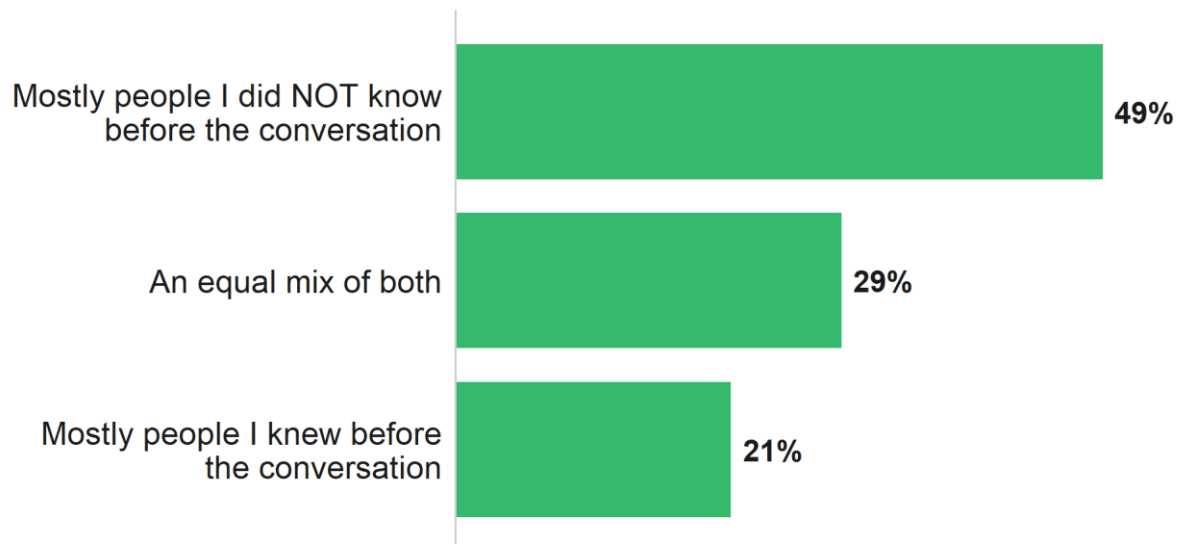


Figure B.33: Where did your conversation take place? Top counties:

% of respondents (n = 636)



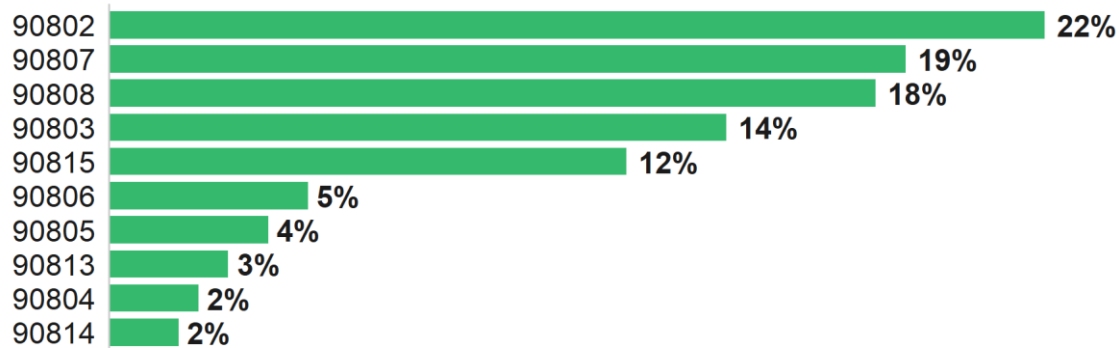
Figure B.34: Where did your conversation take place? Top cities:

% of respondents (n = 629)



Figure B.35: Where did your conversation take place? Top ZIP codes:

% of respondents (n = 430)



Where Respondents Attended ATT Conversations

of Respondents by Zip Code

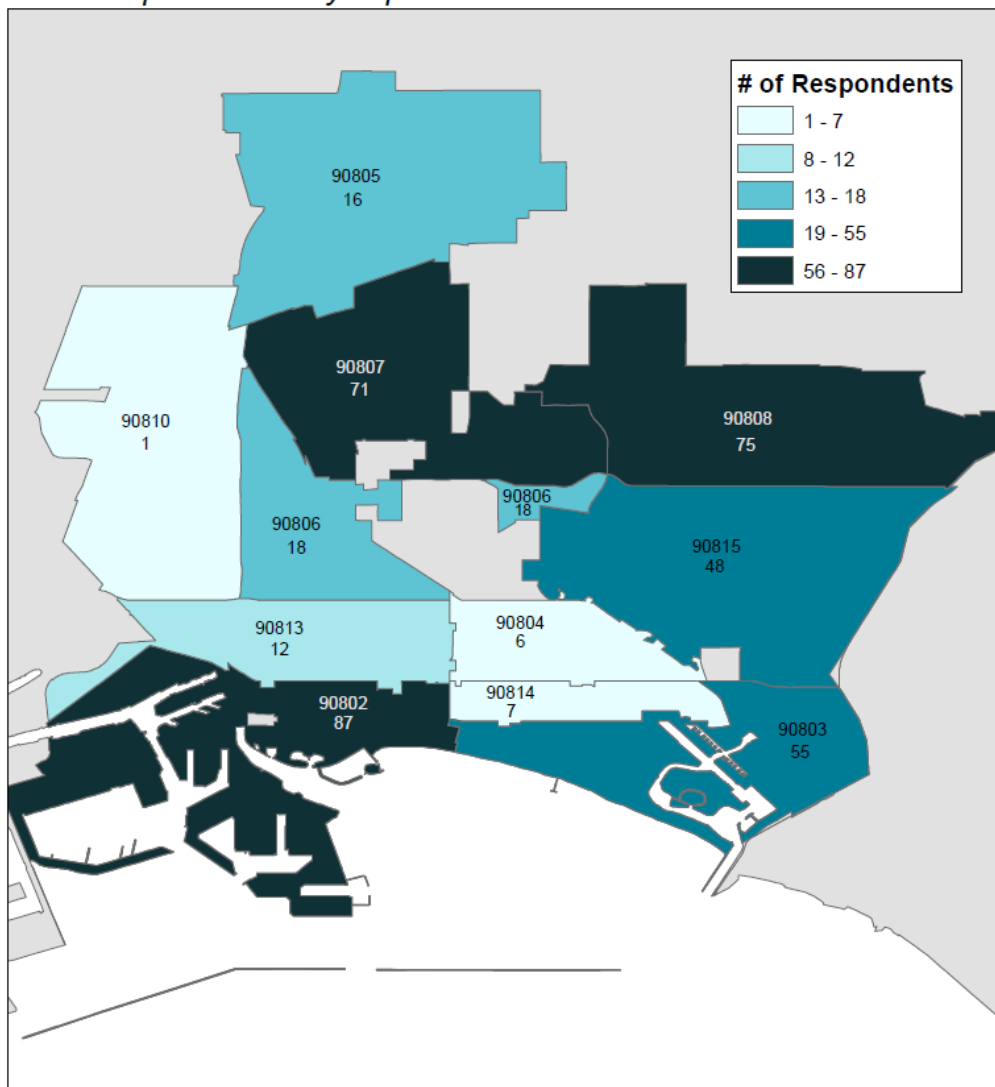
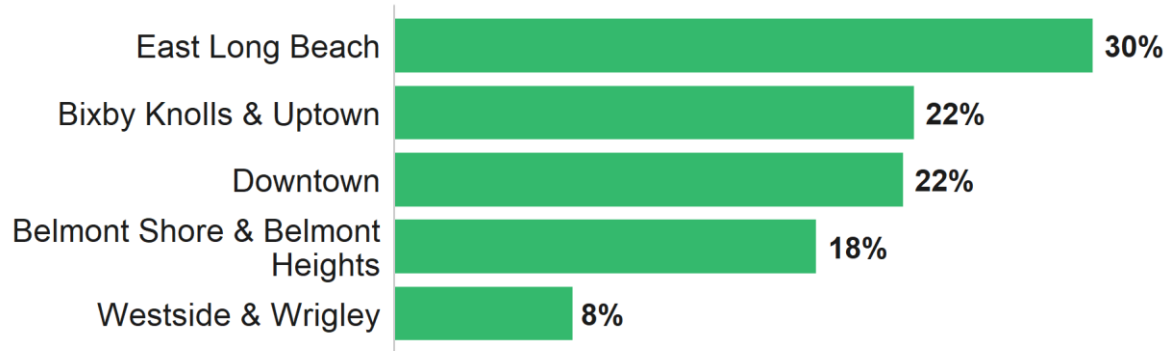


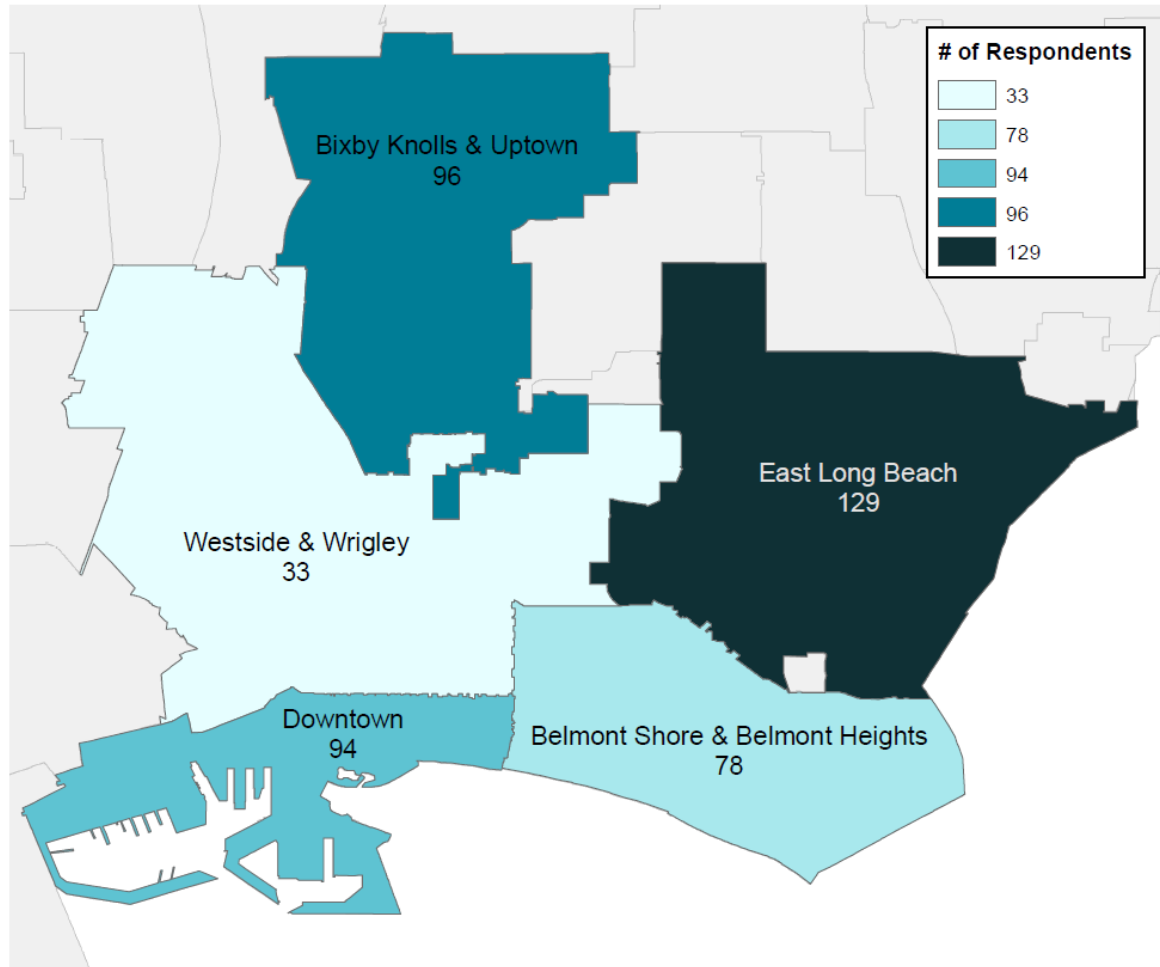
Figure B.36: Where did your conversation take place? Regions:

% of respondents (n = 430)



Where Respondents Attended Around The Table Conversations

of Respondents by Neighborhood



Belmont Shore and Belmont Heights: 90803, 90804, 90814

Bixby Knolls and Uptown: 90805, 90807

Downtown: 90802

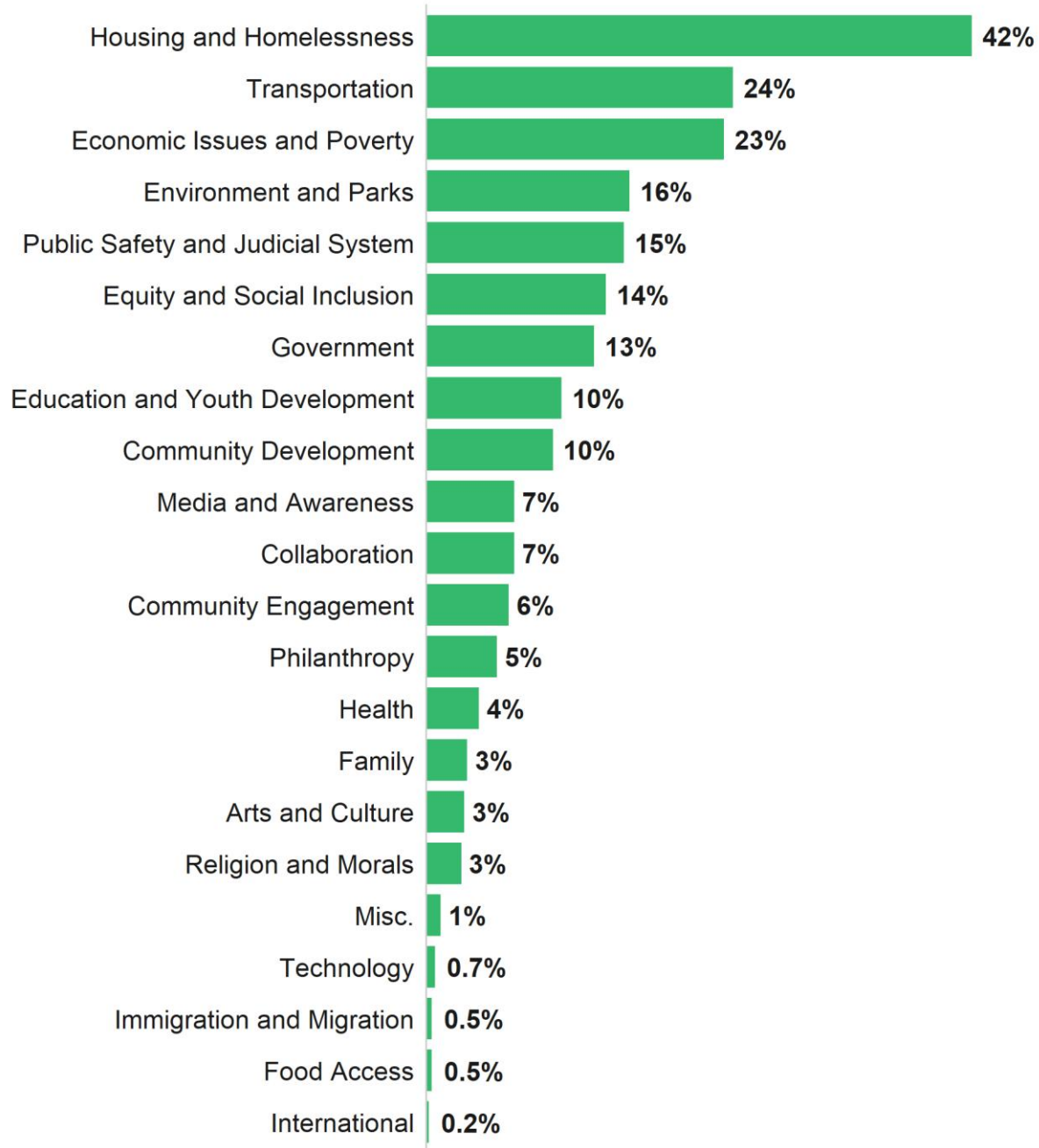
East Long Beach: 90808, 90815, 90840

Westside and Wrigley: 90755, 90806, 90810, 90813



Figure B.37: Issues Raised During the Conversation

% of respondents (n = 439)



Impact of the Conversation

Figure B.38: How did you connect with others at your conversation(s)?

% of respondents (n = 632 // select all that apply)

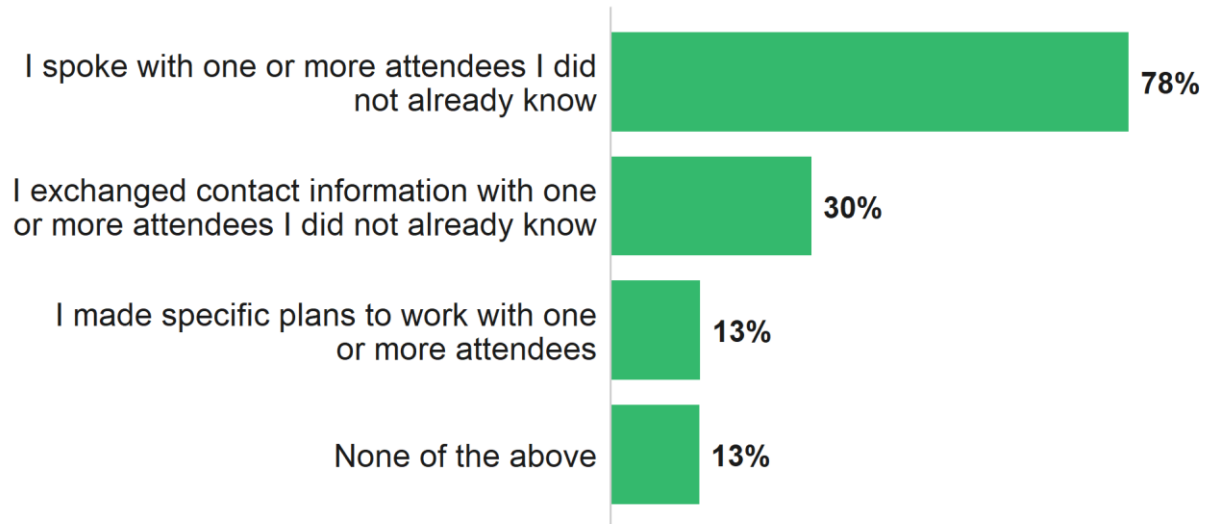


Figure B.39: After participating in your conversation(s), to what extent do you better understand how you, personally, can help address the issues facing your community?

% of respondents (n = 637)

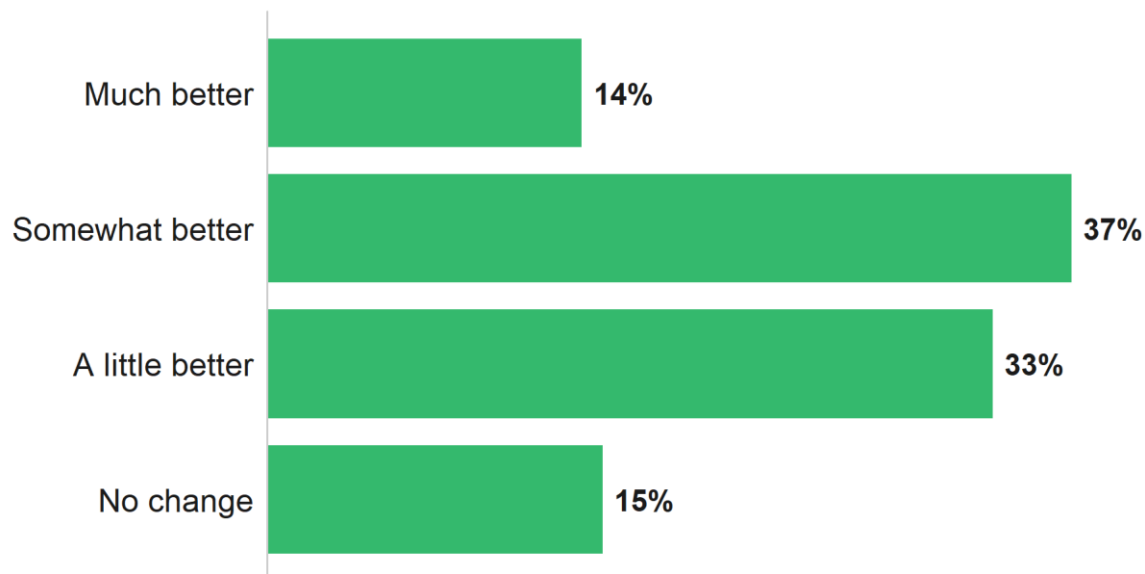


Figure B.40: How likely are you to take specific actions or next steps regarding an issue or solution discussed?

% of respondents (n = 636)

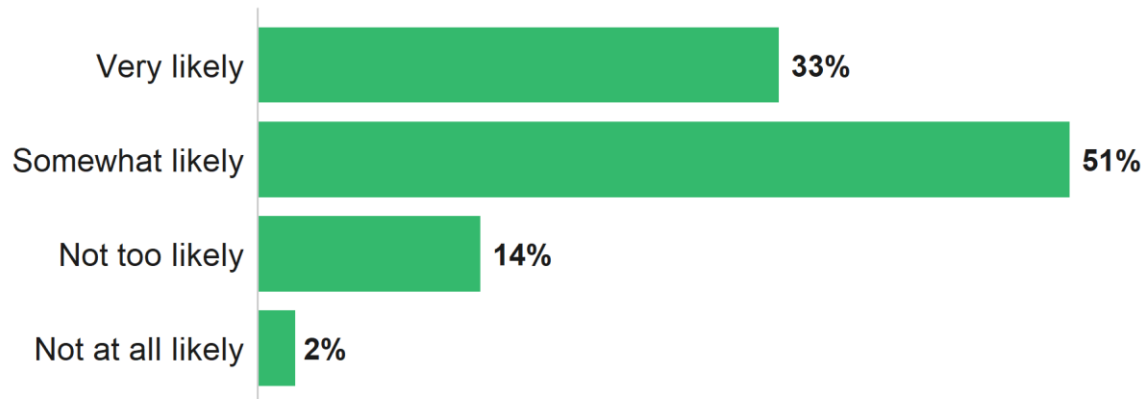
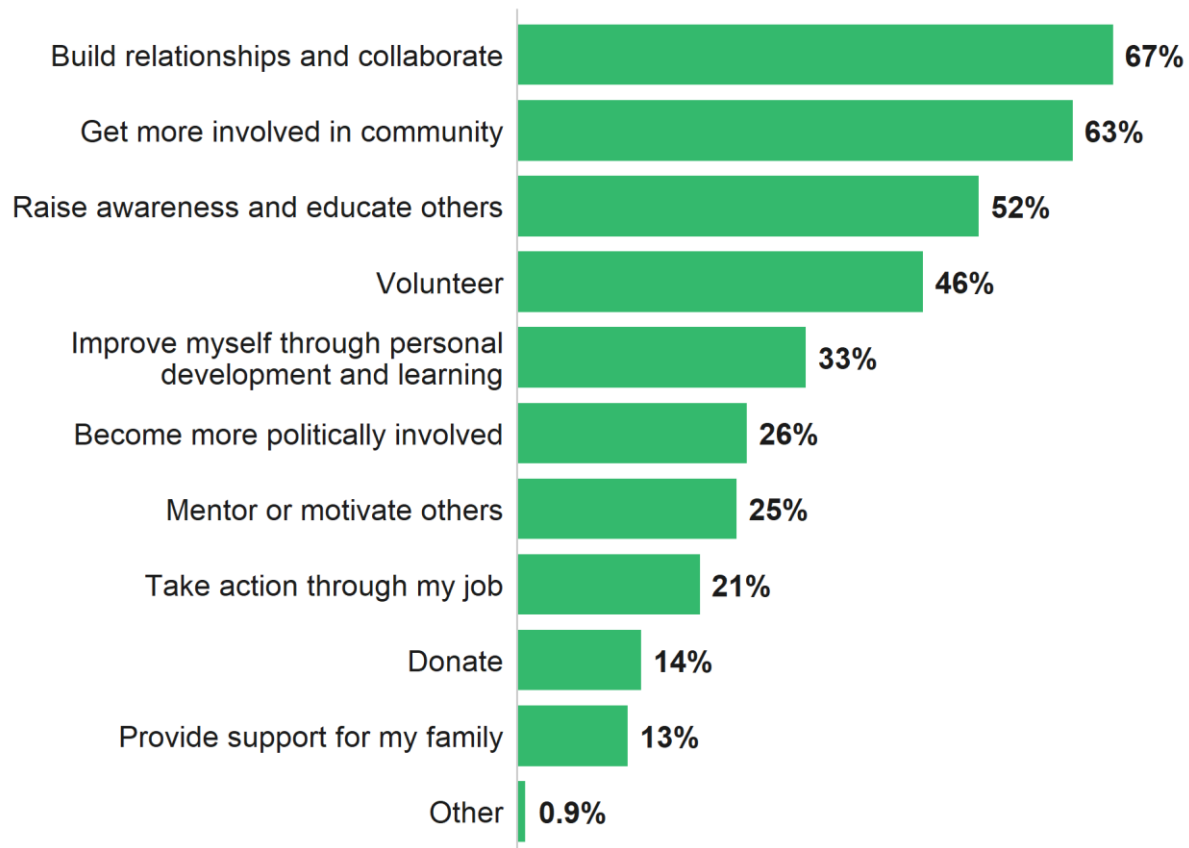


Figure B.41: Actions or next steps respondents are likely to take regarding an issue or solution discussed

% of respondents (n = 527 // select all that apply)



Section 3: Custom Questions

Figure B.42: What is the one most important problem facing Long Beach?

% of respondents (n = 525)

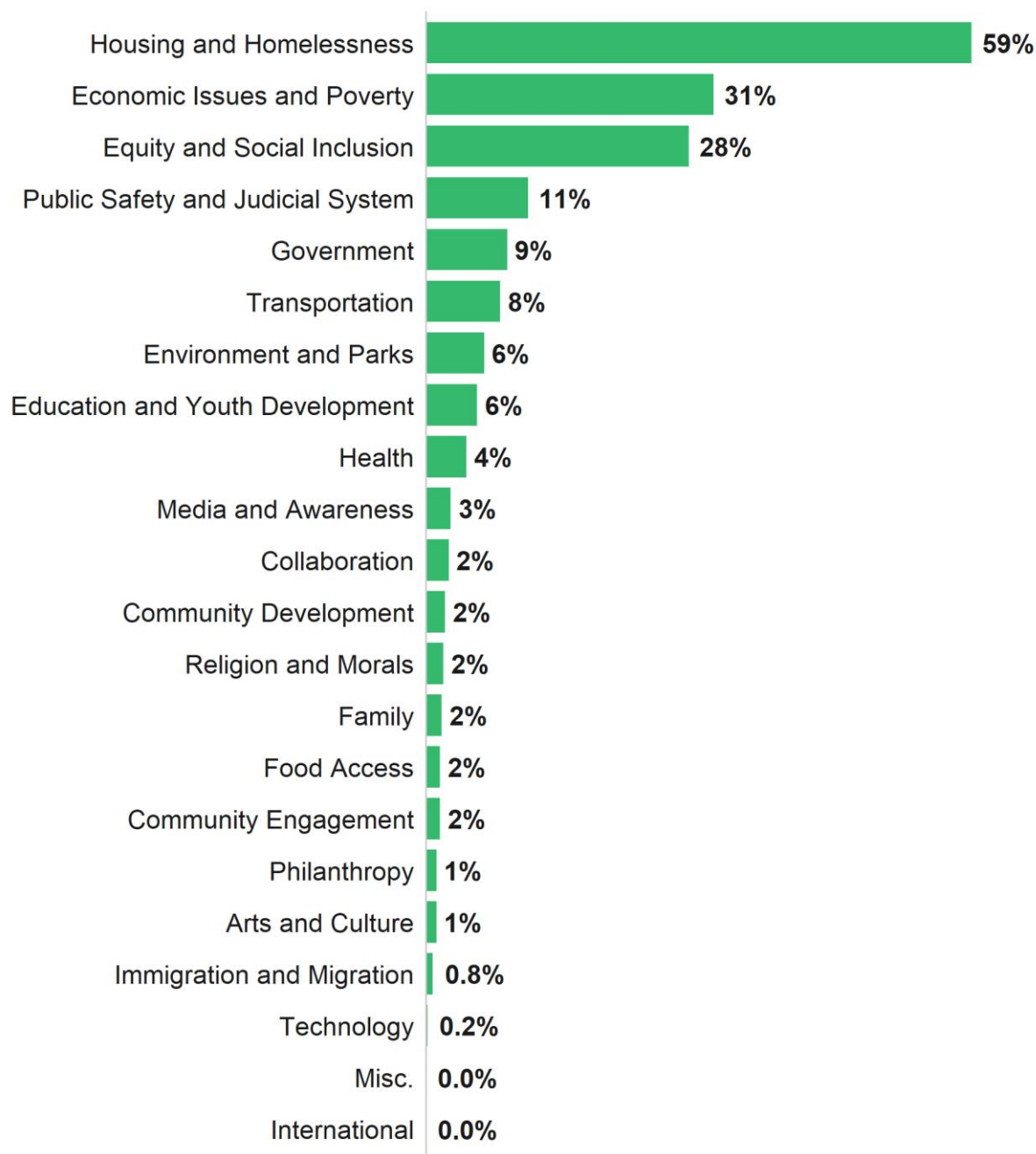


Figure B.43: In which of the following ways can you best help to address this problem?

% of respondents (n = 580 // select all that apply)

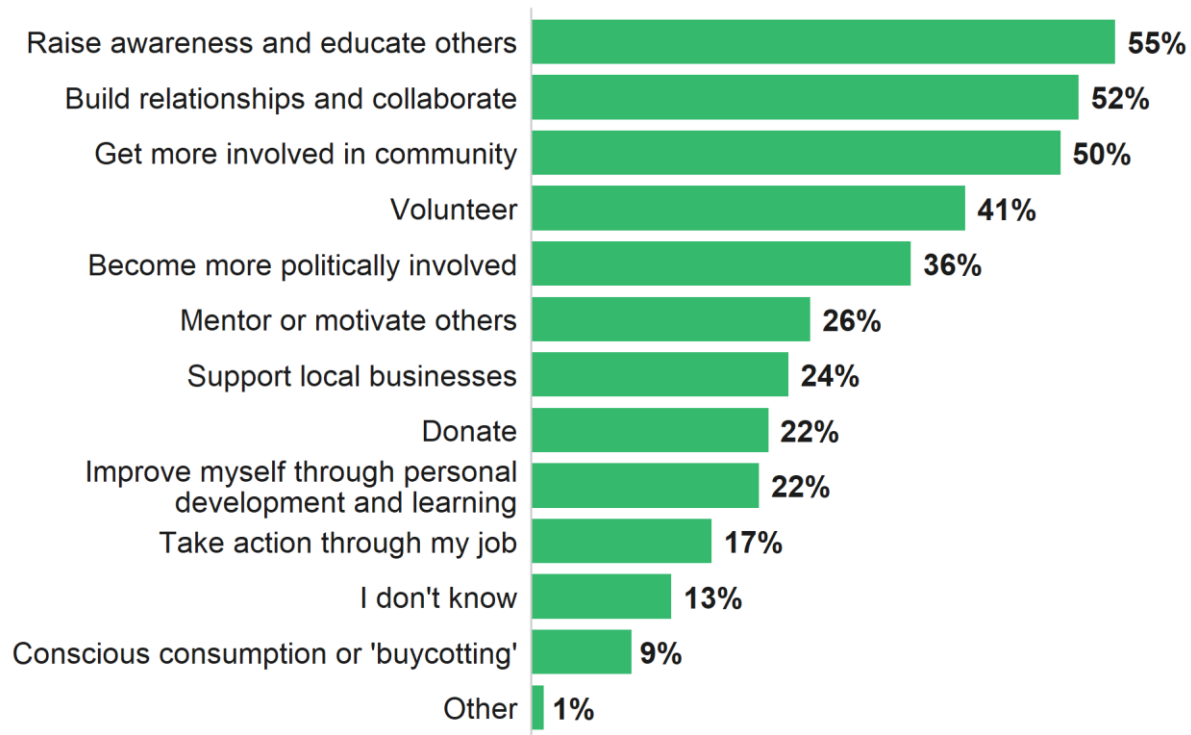


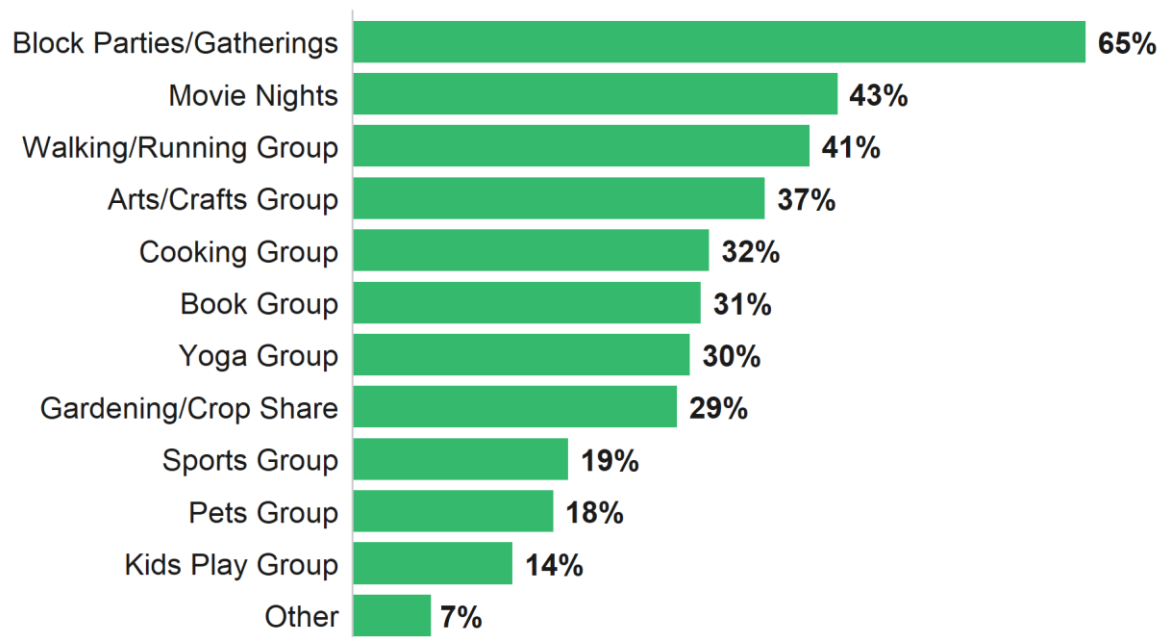
Figure B.44: With whom would you like to work to address this problem?

% of respondents (n = 566 // select all that apply)



Figure B.45: Groups respondents are interested in joining in their neighborhood

% of respondents (n = 524 // select all that apply)



Appendix C: LBCF and We Love Long Beach's *Around the Table* Outreach Strategy

The following statement is from LBCF and We Love Long Beach regarding their *Around the Table* outreach strategy:

The purpose of *Around the Table* was to invite the entire city of Long Beach to engage in hundreds of friendly conversations with other residents around how we could collectively make Long Beach even better. We imagined that the best way to begin to bring lasting change to the city of Long Beach was to create a welcoming and inclusive environment where every resident felt safe and felt listened to by others.

We broke up the city into five sectors as a strategy to connect with many marginalized communities of Long Beach with the hope that everyone was invited around a table near them.

Here are the five community sectors below and the organizations we reached out to:

In the Civic Sector: We contacted and engaged the Mayor and all 9 council members, Neighborhood Services, I-Team, City Prosecutor, City Auditor, 10 Library Branches, Long Beach Police Department (LBPD), Long Beach Fire Department (LBFD), and LB Lifeguards.

In the Nonprofit Sector: We contacted and engaged Centro Cha, Building Healthy Communities, the Long Beach Rescue Mission, Precious Lamb Preschool, the Nonprofit Partnership, CCEJ, The YMCA, the Boys and Girls Club, Catholic Charities, Christian Outreach in Action (COA), The Village Mental Health of America (MHA), The Guidance Center, Long Beach Day Nursery, The Center-LGBTQIA, His Nesting Place, Su Casa Domestic Violence Shelter, Urban Community Outreach, United Cambodian Community, Ronald McDonald House, Flossie Lewis, The Children's Clinic (TCC), Home 4 Ever, Pathways to Independence, Why'd You Stop Me (WYSM), Boy Scouts of America.

In the Faith Sector: The Rock Church, The Gathering Church, Seventh Street Church, Long Beach Christian Fellowship, Bethany Church, The Minister's Alliance, Antioch Church, Grace Long Beach, Parkcrest, Temple Israel, Temple Beth Shalom, City Church, Plant LB.

In the Neighborhood Association Sector: Washington Neighborhood Association, Midtown Neighborhood Association, AOC7 Neighborhood Group, Wrigley Neighborhood Association, North Pine Neighborhood Association, East Village Neighborhood Association, Houghton Park Neighborhood Association, De Forest Neighborhood Association, Grant Neighborhood Association, West Side Neighborhood Group, WESCA Neighborhood Association, Willmore City Heritage Association.

In the Business Association Sector: Downtown Long Beach Alliance (DLBA), Anaheim Business Association, Bixby Knolls Business Association, Uptown Business Association.



Appendix D: Issues Codebook – Defined

Arts and Culture

An arts and culture code may refer to art initiatives such as art for social change as well as public art and art infrastructure, or it may acknowledge culture through cultural institutions (such as historic buildings) and city events and activities (such as festivals) as well as through opportunities for ethnic cultural awareness.

Collaboration

A collaboration code refers to working together and building relationships to create partnerships and expand networks. It may function at the community or individual level and often involves crossing divides and building bridges while working toward collective impact. Sharing resources and holding dialogues/conversations are other indicators of collaboration.

Community Development

A community development code refers to identifying community assets and building up the community, particularly through local economic development, in order to improve quality of life. It also refers to building a sense of community and creating community for those who live there.

Community Engagement

A community engagement code refers to overall involvement and participation in one's neighborhood or community in order to make a difference. Often there is an organizing element at the grassroots level as well as intentions for improved neighbor relations and opportunities for neighborhood gatherings.

Economic Issues and Poverty

An economic issues and poverty code refers to economic development, on one end, and economic insecurity, or poverty, on the other, covering in the intermediate unemployment and jobs as well as income inequality and wage issues.

Education and Youth Development

An education and youth development code refers primarily to schools (such as school system or curriculum) and students (often at the high school level) with additional focal points on mentoring and general youth development. It is also inclusive of other related topics such as community relationships, parent involvement, and research.

Environment and Parks

An environment and parks code refers to overall environmental sustainability efforts and clean up as well as recreational opportunities for all. It is inclusive of greenspace as well as farmland and agriculture.

Equity and Social Inclusion

An equity and social inclusion code uses a social justice lens to account for forms of exclusion and issues of access and equality for underserved groups. Reference is largely made to youth access and engagement concerns as well as to issues of disparity as noted across income levels, racial groups, and neighborhoods.



Family

A family code refers to the overall functioning and behavior of the family unit, particularly through parent involvement and support (or lack thereof) and child concerns such as childcare.

Food Access

A food access code refers primarily to food insecurity, focusing on problems of hunger and food deserts and solutions regarding food assistance and urban agriculture.

Government

A government code refers to the governing habits of the state and regional municipalities, especially regarding fiscal issues and taxes, including pensions and cuts to social services, as well as transparency, accountability, and corruption. It also involves the function of government, particularly through elections, public engagement, and public policy.

Health

A health code refers to the wellbeing of both people and communities, considering in particular mental health issues and addiction while also taking into account public health, quality of life issues, nutrition and wellness, and health care.

Housing and Homelessness

A housing and homelessness code primarily refers to homelessness and issues around home ownership and renting responsibilities.

Immigration and Migration

An immigration and migration code refers to the displacement, movement, and integration of immigrant communities, including those who are undocumented and those who are refugees.

International

An international code refers to world affairs.

Media and Awareness

A media and awareness code refers to raising awareness around issues of importance and addressing ignorance, particularly through the media and social media. It includes improving communication and building new narratives, especially around persistent stigmas.

Religion and Morals

A morals and religion code refers largely to personal attributes and attitudes, such as apathy or hope. It is also inclusive of faith-based community work.

Philanthropy

A philanthropy code refers to increased funding and support for programs and nonprofit organizations and often incorporates a need for organizational capacity building, institutional community outreach, and corporate social responsibility. On the individual level, it refers to civic responsibility and volunteering, with individuals taking action for the greater good.



Public Safety and Judicial System

A public safety and judicial system code may refer to public safety and crime as well as the criminal justice system, including instances of gang violence, gun violence, drugs, and trafficking, and how officials such as police can better provide community security.

Technology

A technology code refers to technology in a general sense and includes references to access, training, and improvement.

Transportation

A transportation code refers to transportation access and transportation infrastructure.



Prepared by Meltwater Buzz



Social Media Analysis Report Long Beach

Hashtag Usage

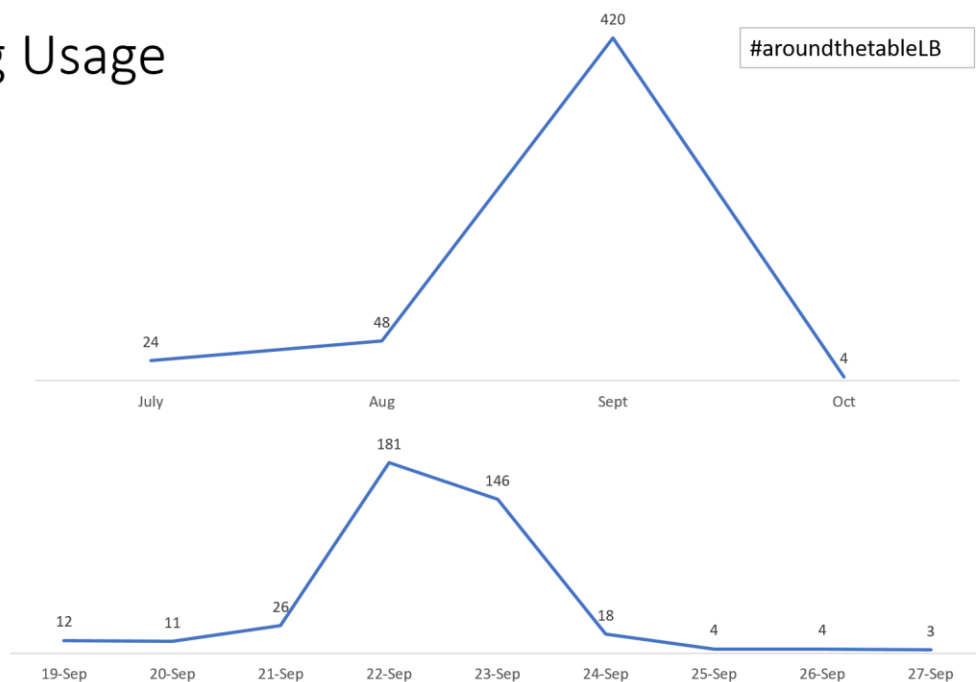
496

total mentions

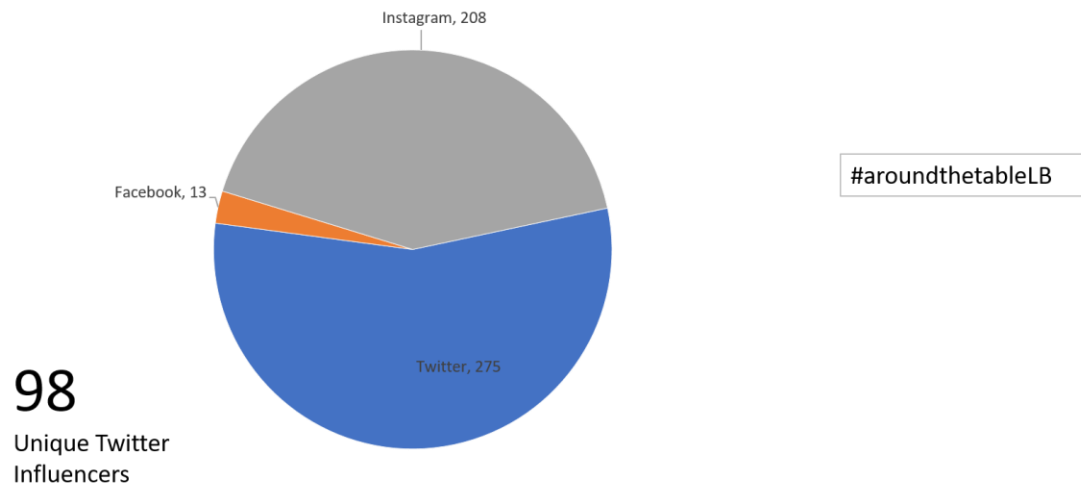
4.07M

Total impressions

The event occurred on
Sept 23.



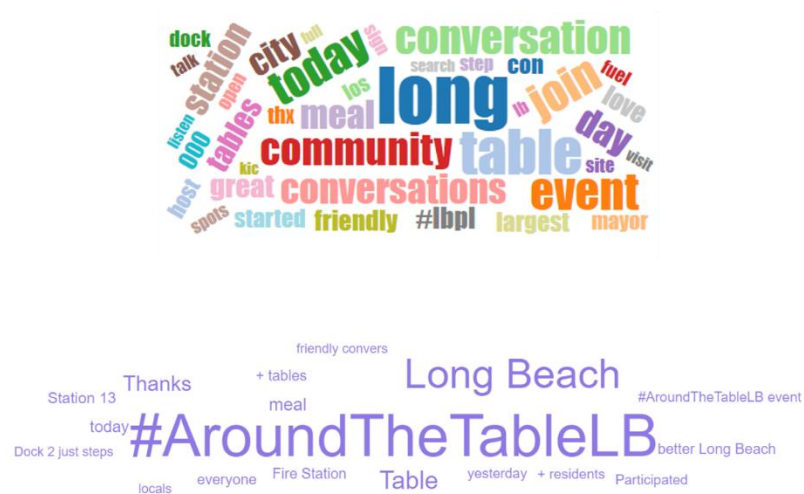
Platform Breakdown



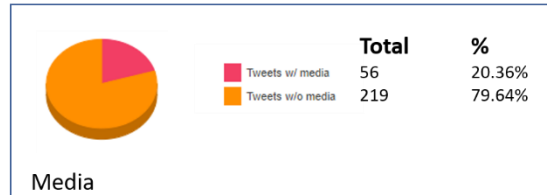
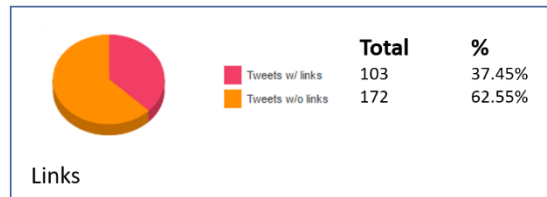
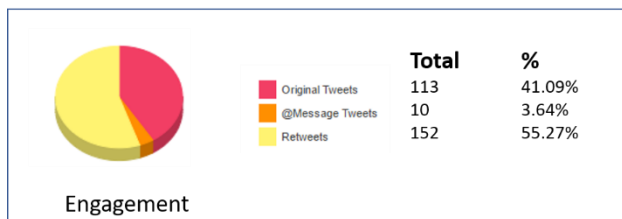
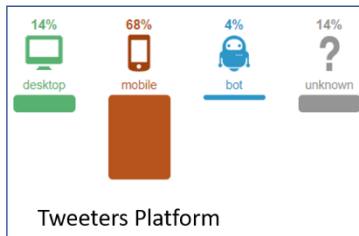
Hashtag Usage

Top Influencers

Twitter User	Posts
@weloVelb	41
@LBCommunityFdn	27
@NeighboringNow	11
@soconighbors	8
@MarcelleEpley	8
@RebeccaQuinn	7
@rancholosc	7
@knightfdn	6
@TGC_LB	6
@LongBeachMayor	5



Twitter Insight



Top Sources

Twitter for iPhone	49.5%
Twitter Web Client	12.7%
Twitter for Android	10.5%
Twitter Lite	10.2%
Instagram	5.5%
Other	11.6%

Appendix F: Visualization of Disparity between Important Issues and Contributions

Figure F.1

